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China's New Weird

Bangyuan Shi

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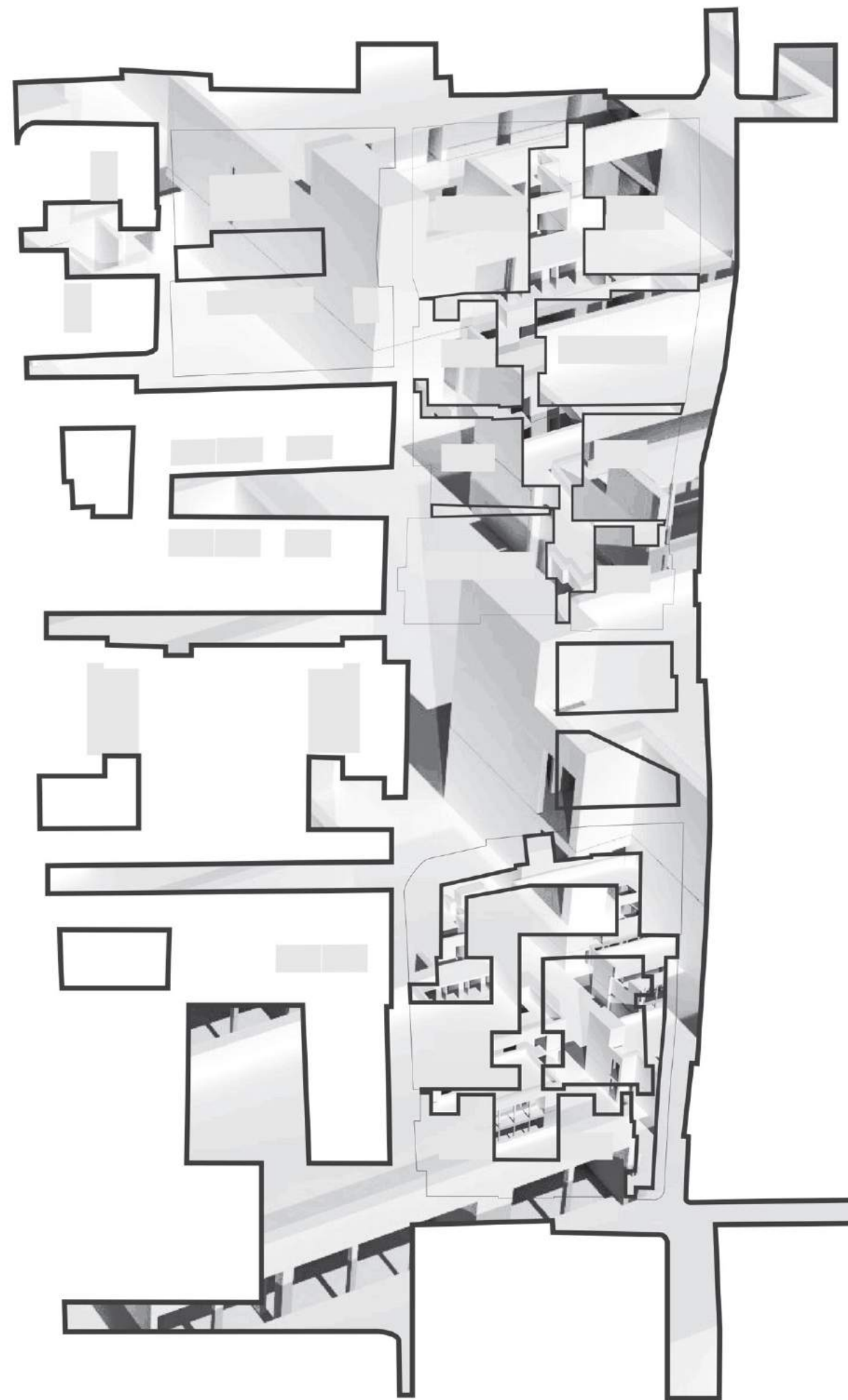
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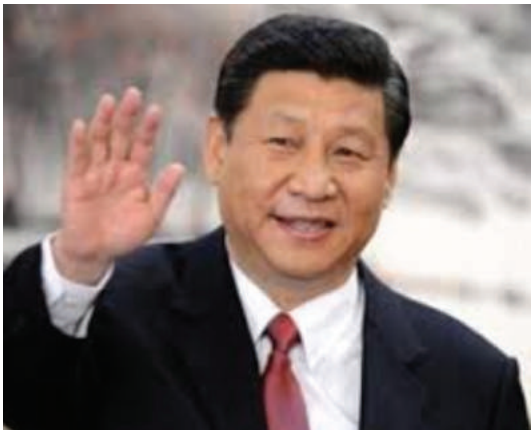
China's New Weird

奇奇怪怪的建筑

A new urban typology for Beijing



2014 President Xi Jinping
Announced “no more weird
architecture”



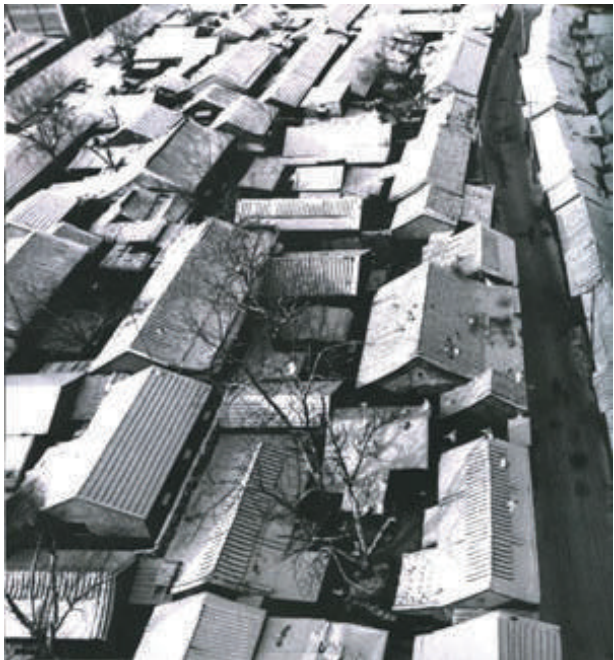
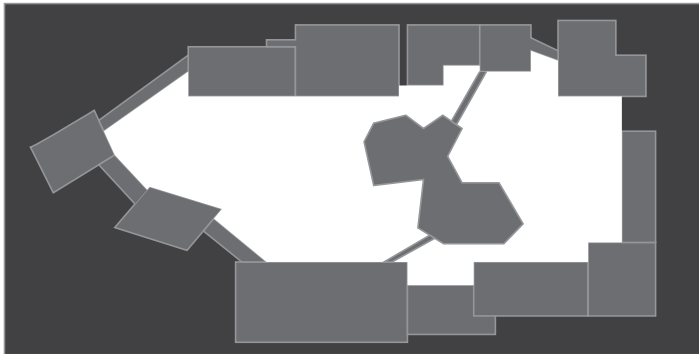
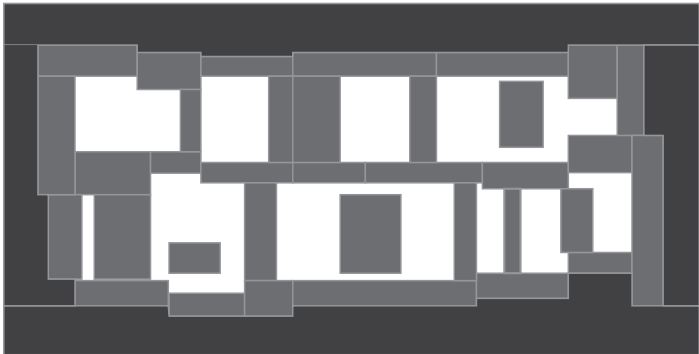
In 2015, Chinese President Xi called for an end to “weird architecture”.

While the president didn’t give a specific definition of what constituted ‘weird’, he did offer several examples of the sorts of building he felt fell within this new category’s boundaries: The well-known CCTV building in Beijing by OMA, a skyscraper that happens to be shaped like a giant doughnut and Zaha Hadid’s pebble-shaped apartment complex designed for real-estate developer Soho China

I preferred interpretation is that this comment reflects his tendency towards Chinese nationalism. New york times quotes one section of his speech where he says that Chinese art should “disseminate contemporary Chinese values, embody traditional Chinese culture and reflect Chinese people’s aesthetic pursuit.”.

China's New Weird
A new urban typology for Beijing

Fabric



Traditional Human-Scale Hutong Fabric

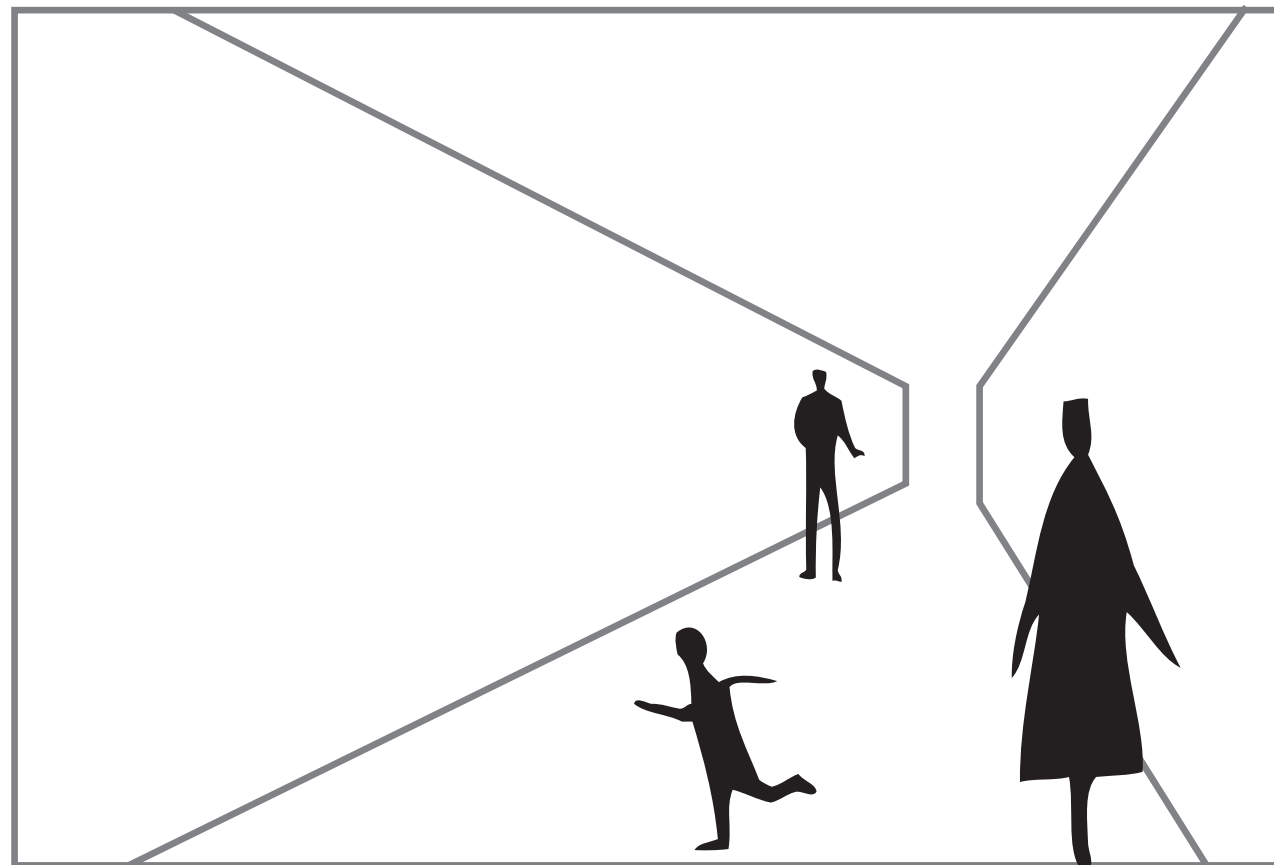


Western Monolithic Style Fabric

China's New Weird

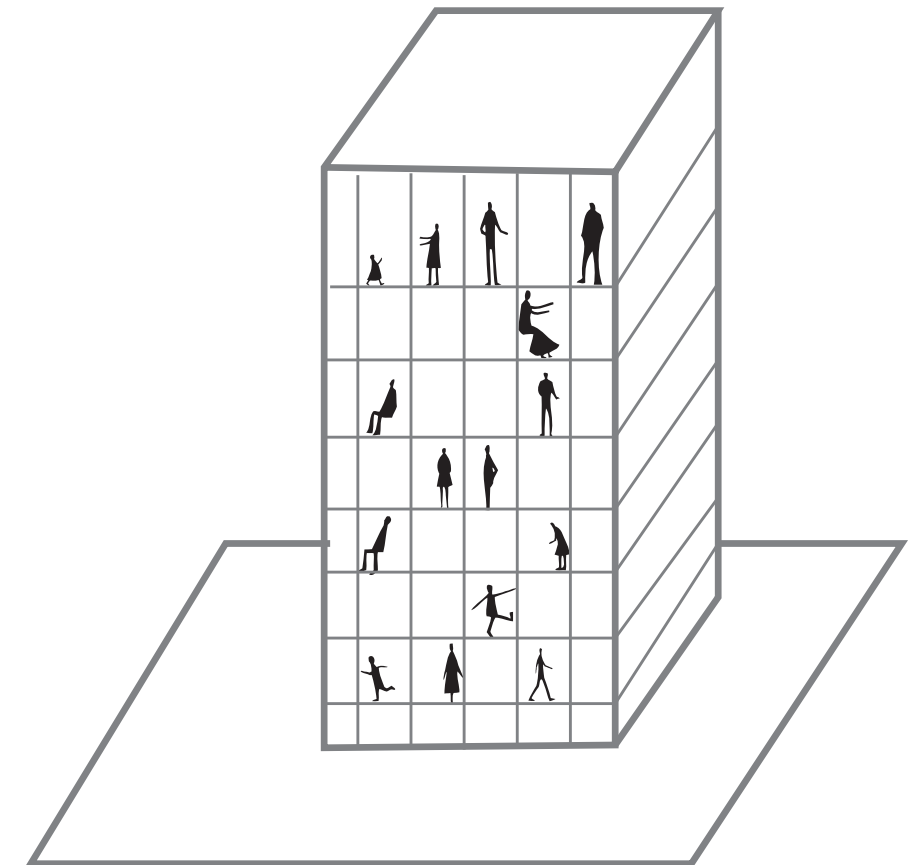
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Scale



Hutong Horizontal Linear Relationship
Vernacular

VS



Modern High-rise as an Isolated Object
Western-style

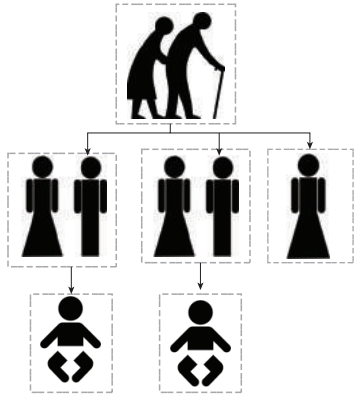
China's New Weird

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Western Style



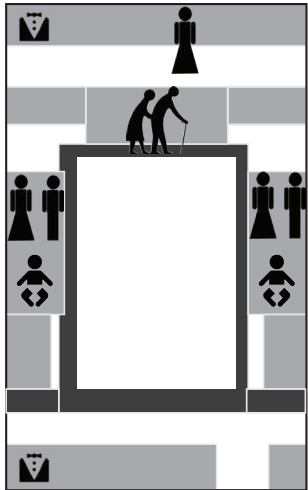
Four Generations under one Roof



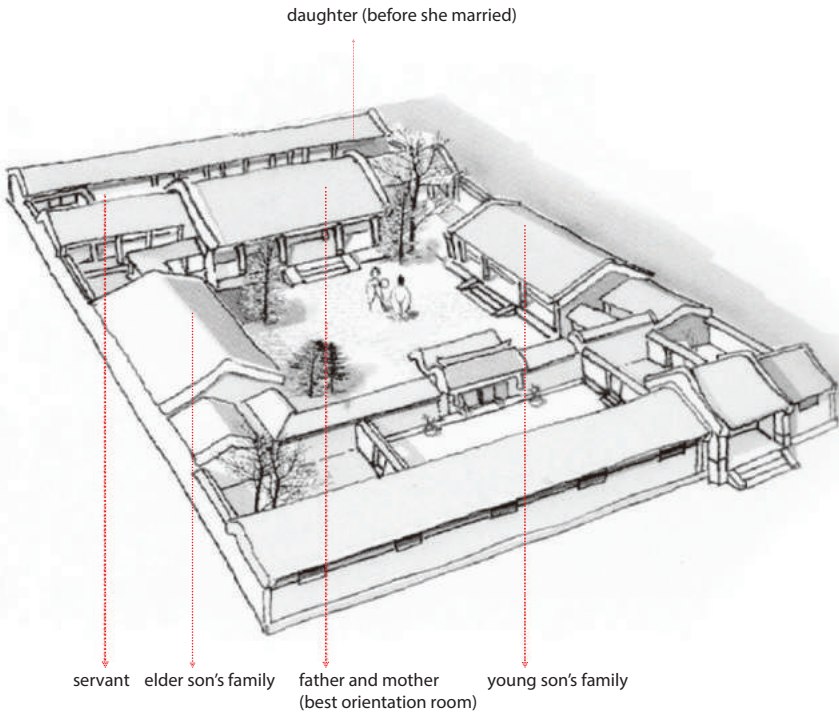
Chinese Traditional Family Structure

Vernacular

Family Structure



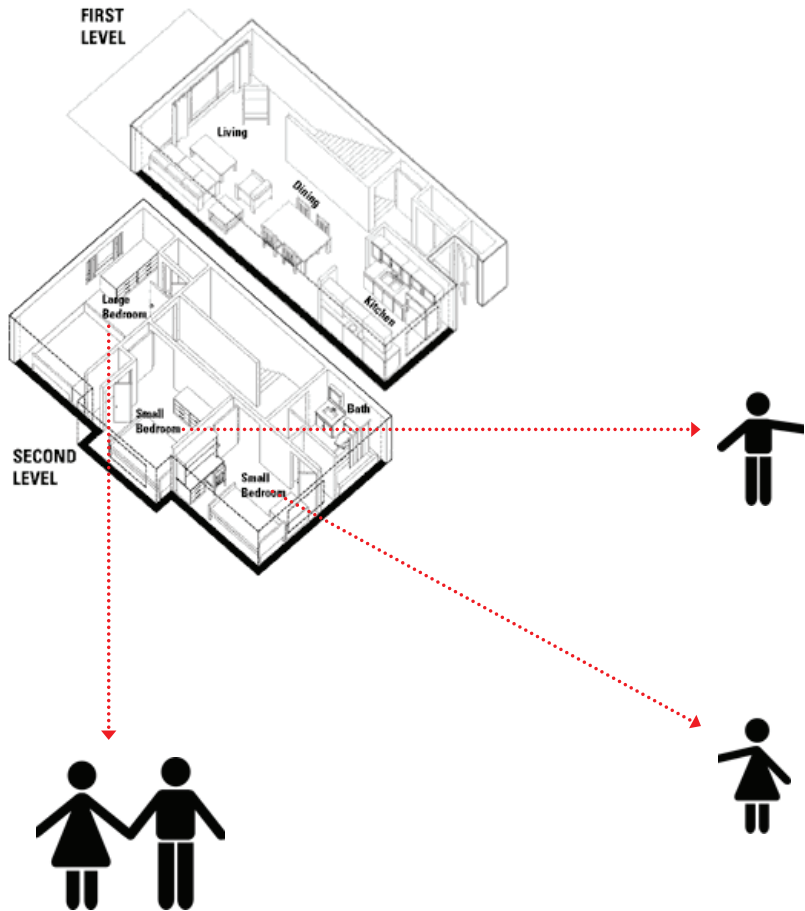
How Family Members Distributed According to Generation Hierarchy in Traditional Courtyard House



Western Typical Family Structure

Western Style

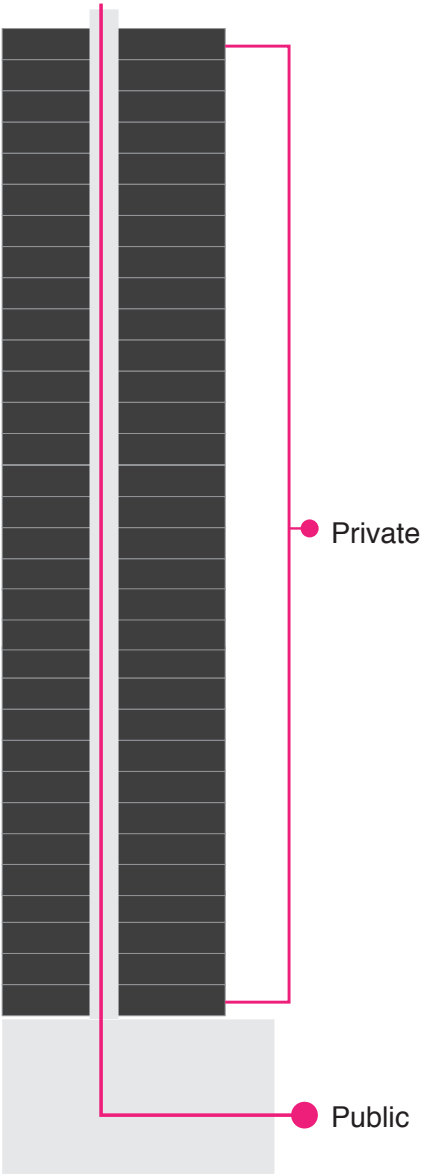
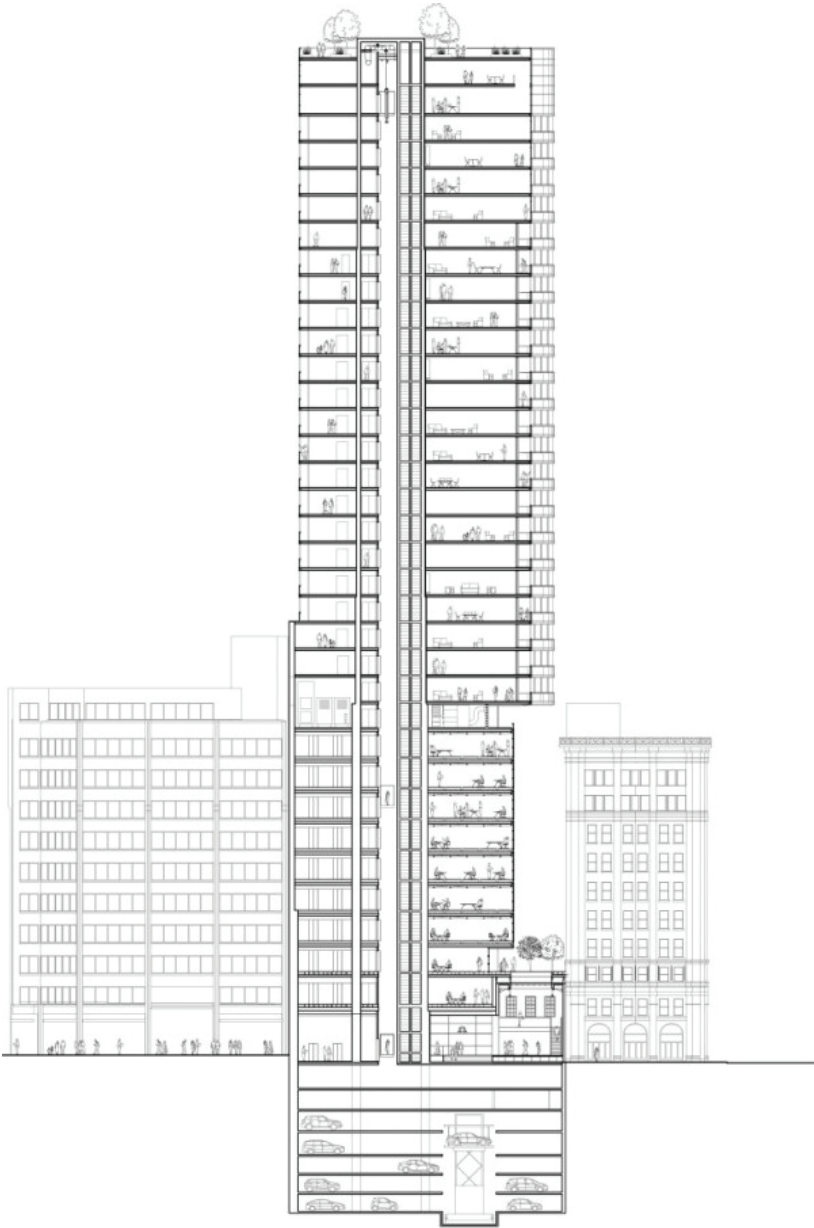
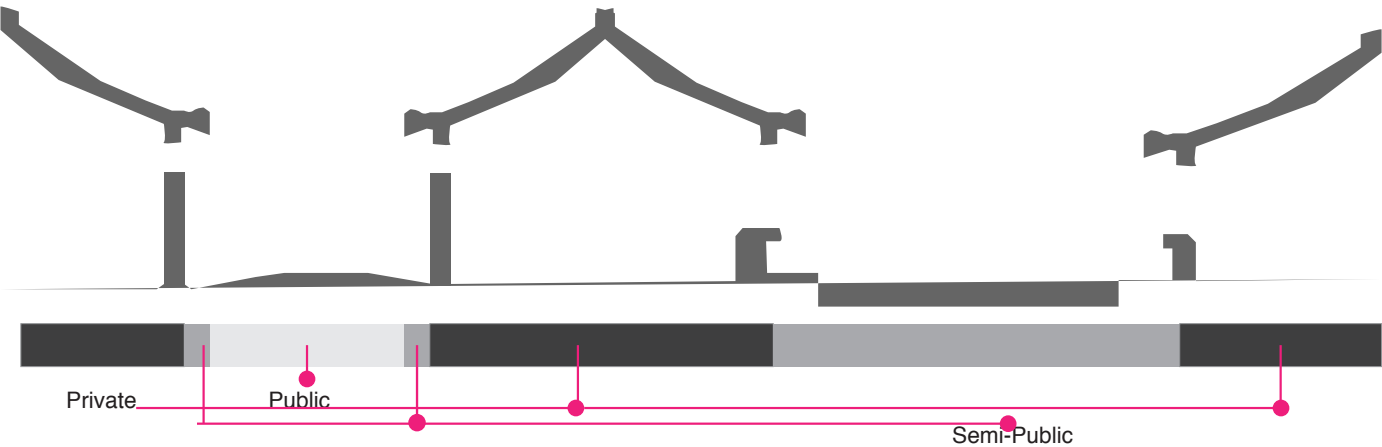
Family Structure

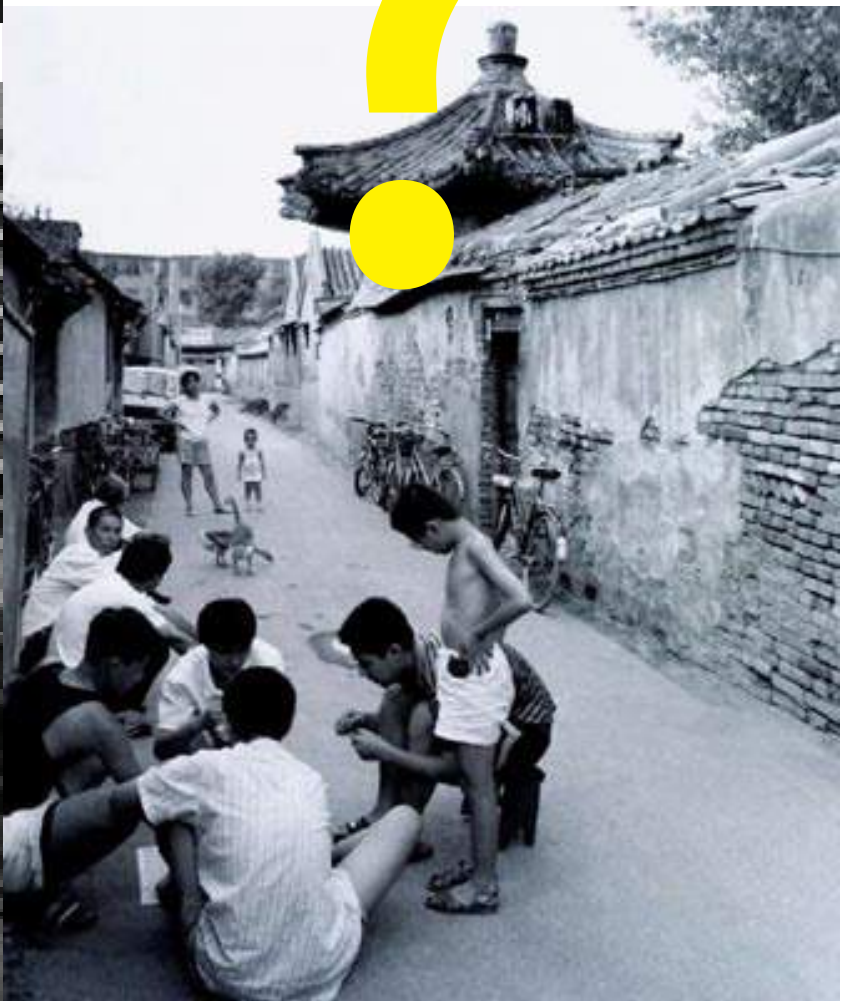
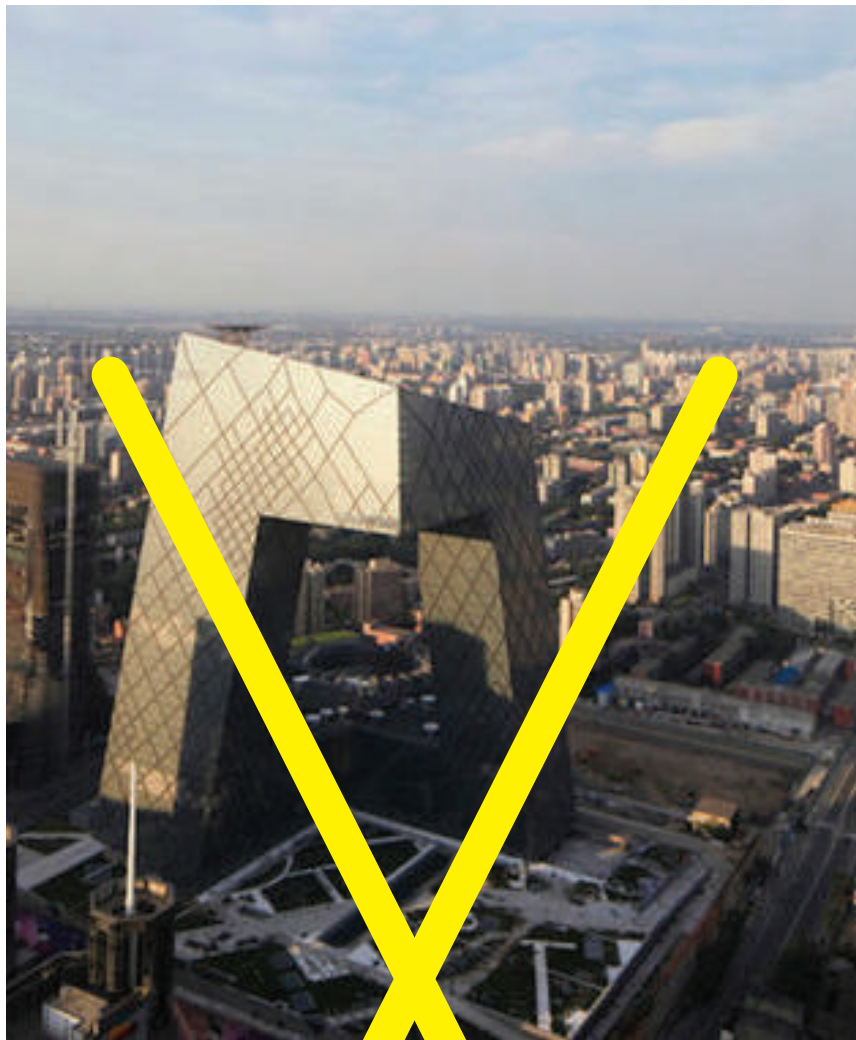


China's New Weird

A new urban typology for Beijing

Spatial Transaction

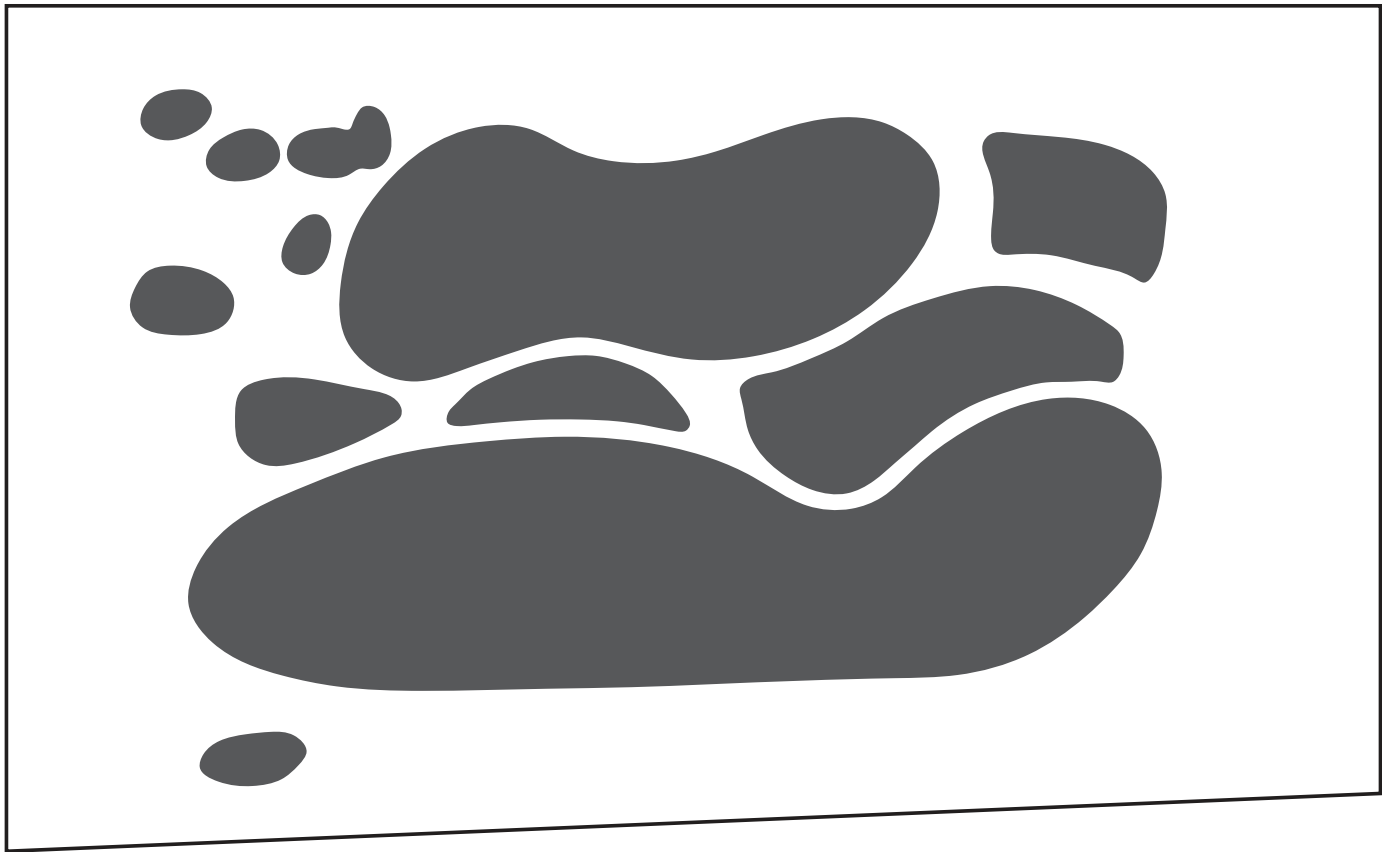






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Site

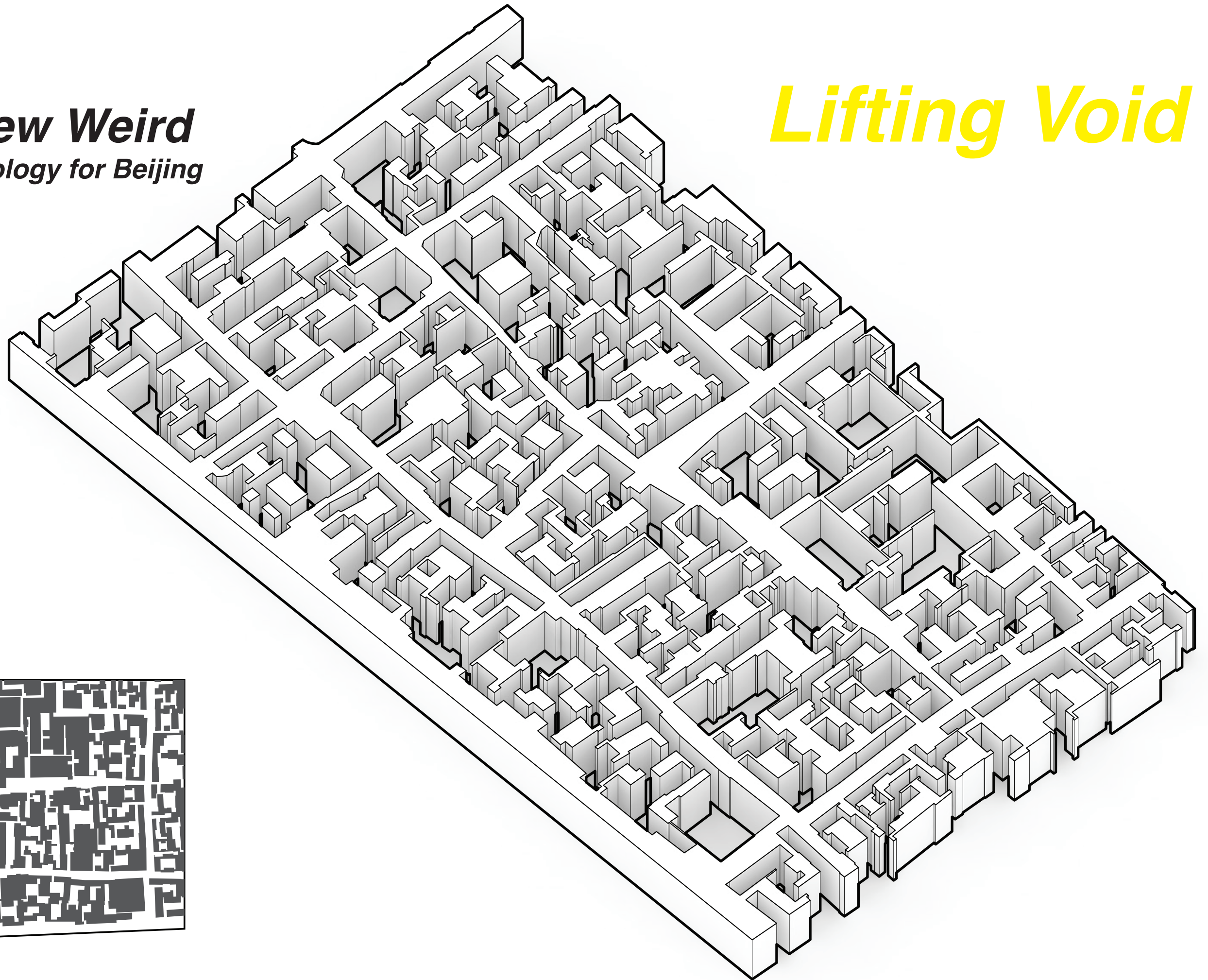




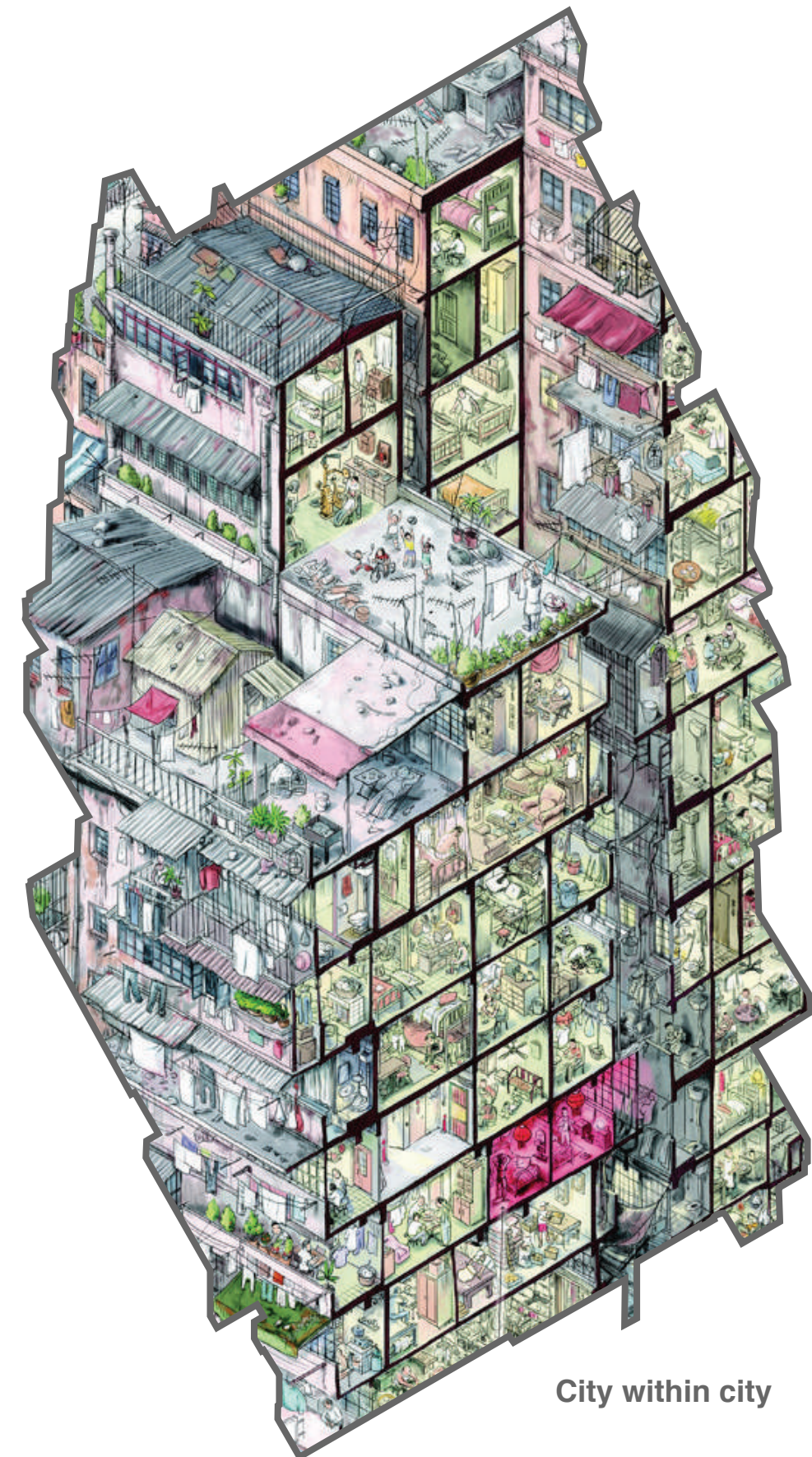
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Lifting Void



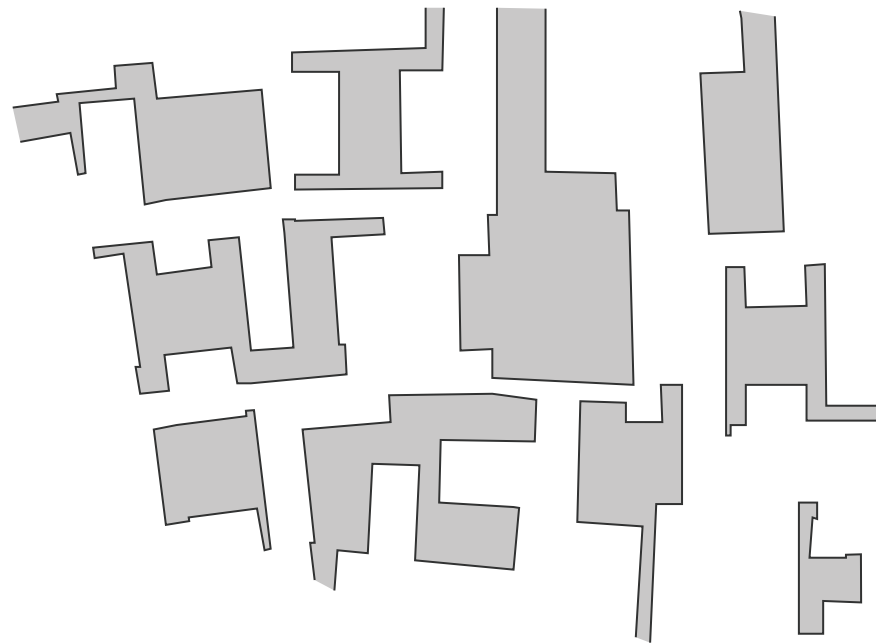
I picked three blocks' fabric from the original site. These fabrics on this site are not completely the standard courtyard house, they are the combination of courtyard house and zayuan (courtyard cluster). So it will show three typologies in one site: standard courtyard house, courtyard cluster, somewhere in between (the processing moment from the courtyard house to courtyard cluster). I transferred these fabric into three dimensional to have a clearer reading of the space. The sectional cut would gave a better reading of different level and hierarchy of the space. The first fabric revealed the main attributes of standard courtyard house: it is like a city within city (people are basically lived in a flat enclosed block surrounded by hutong alley and the walls). When you took off the main road and entered the hutong alley, it is a transportation node that will provide a ride to the courtyard house world, people may have the same starting point but their routines of passing through the alleys are different. Then the area of void space expanded when you enter courtyard void these void are like unique Chinese piazza where people gather but it still has some level of privacy because it is surrounded by high walls. In the end, the void space will get smaller during the process of approaching of the private room.



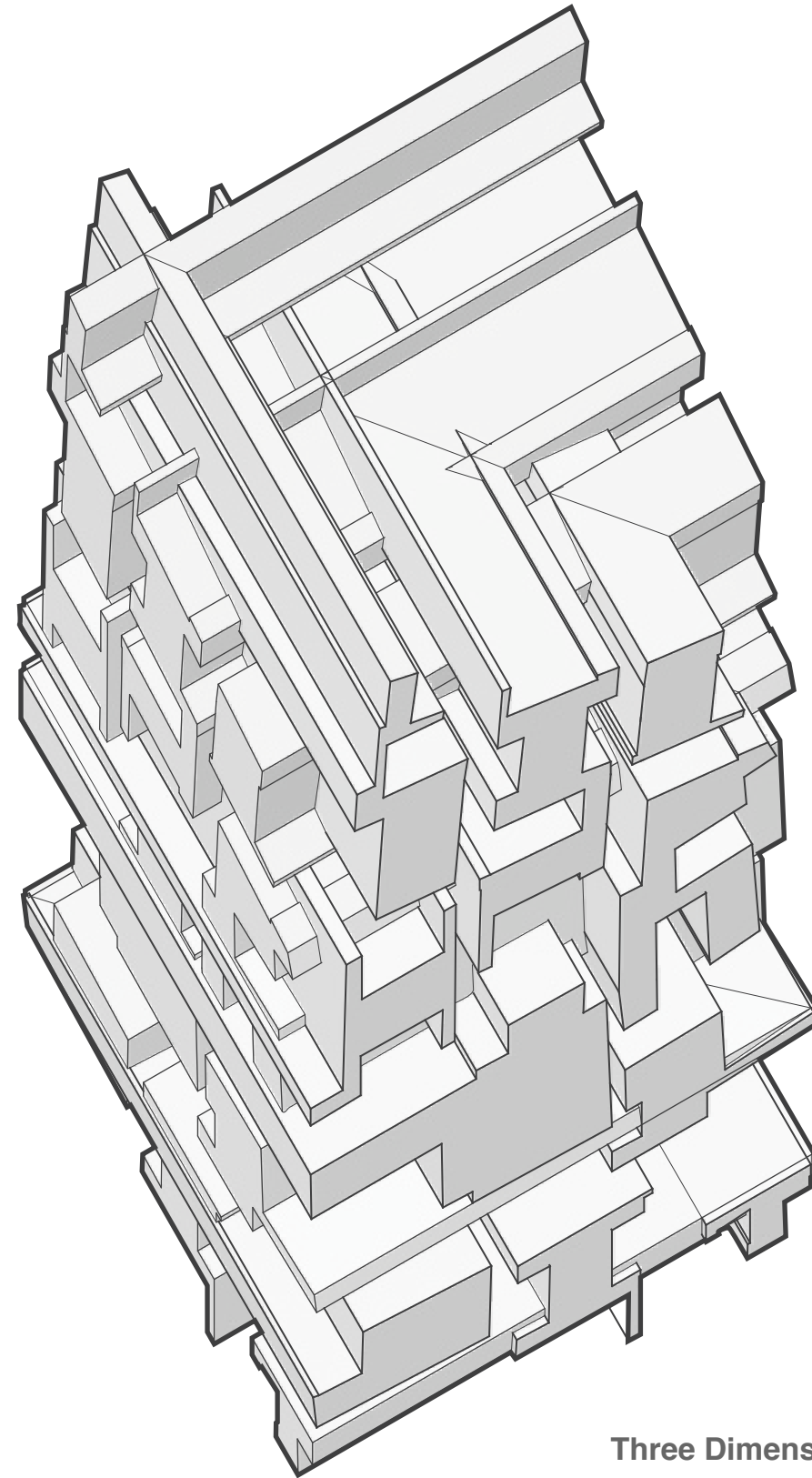
City within city



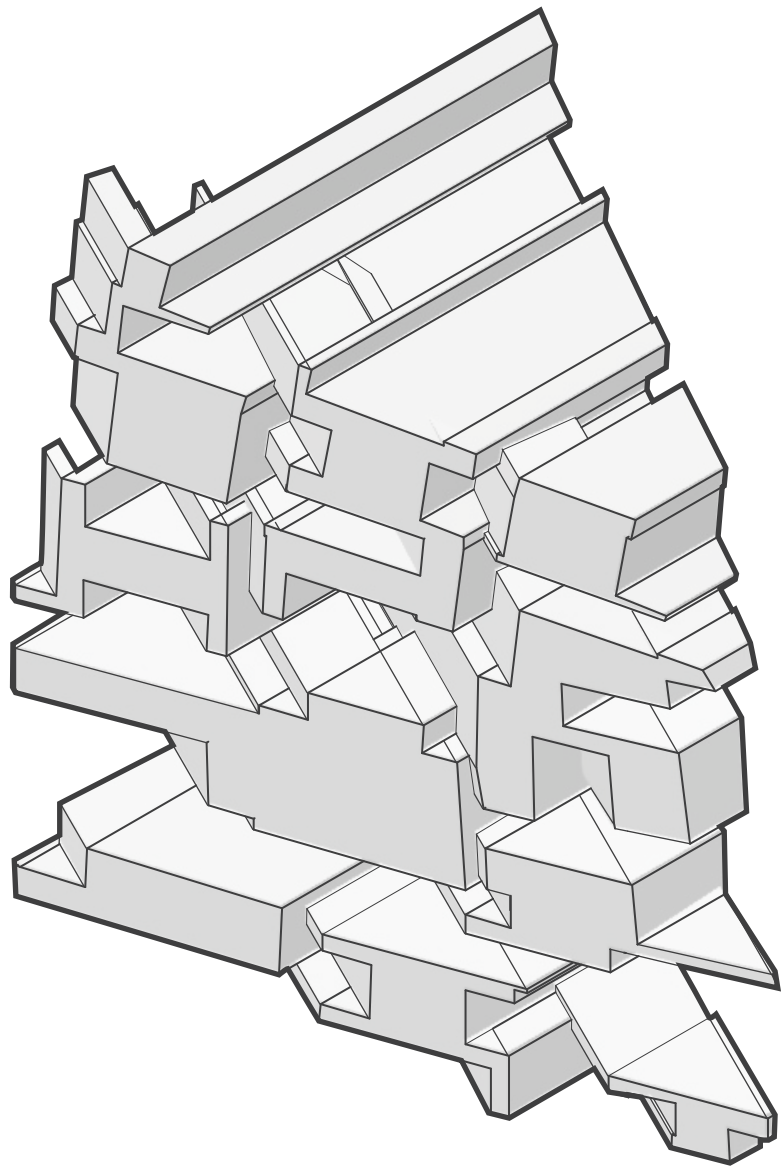
Old hutong Fabric



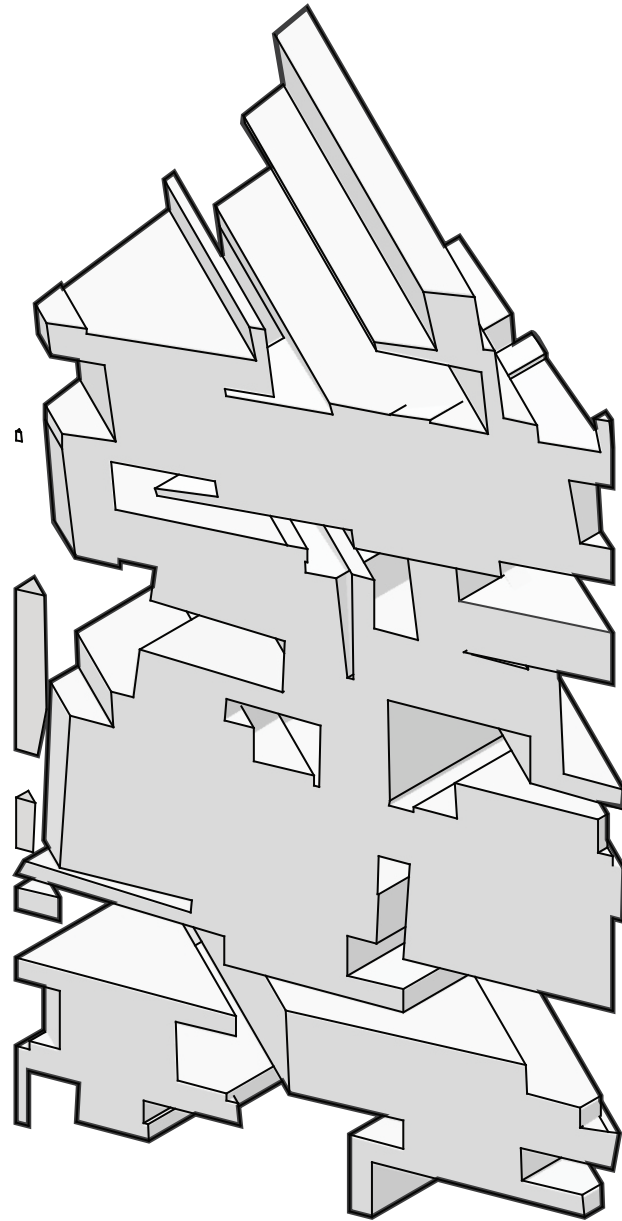
One hutong Block Fabric



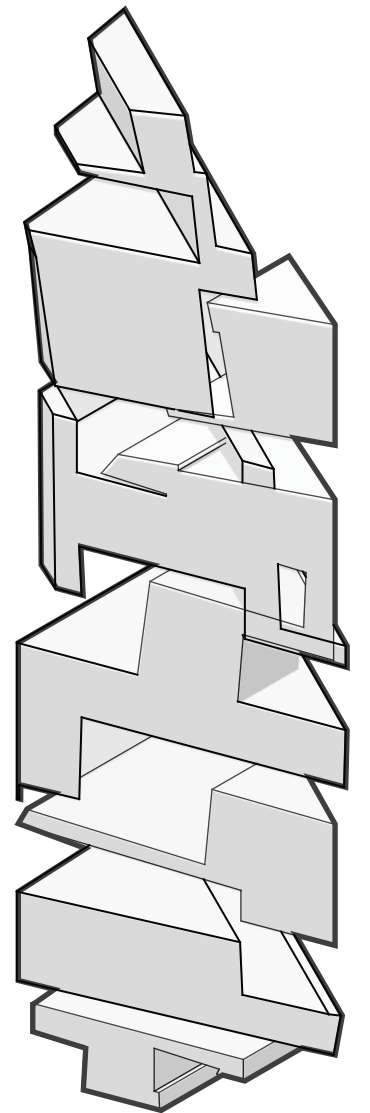
Three Dimensional Reading of the Fabric



Sectional Space

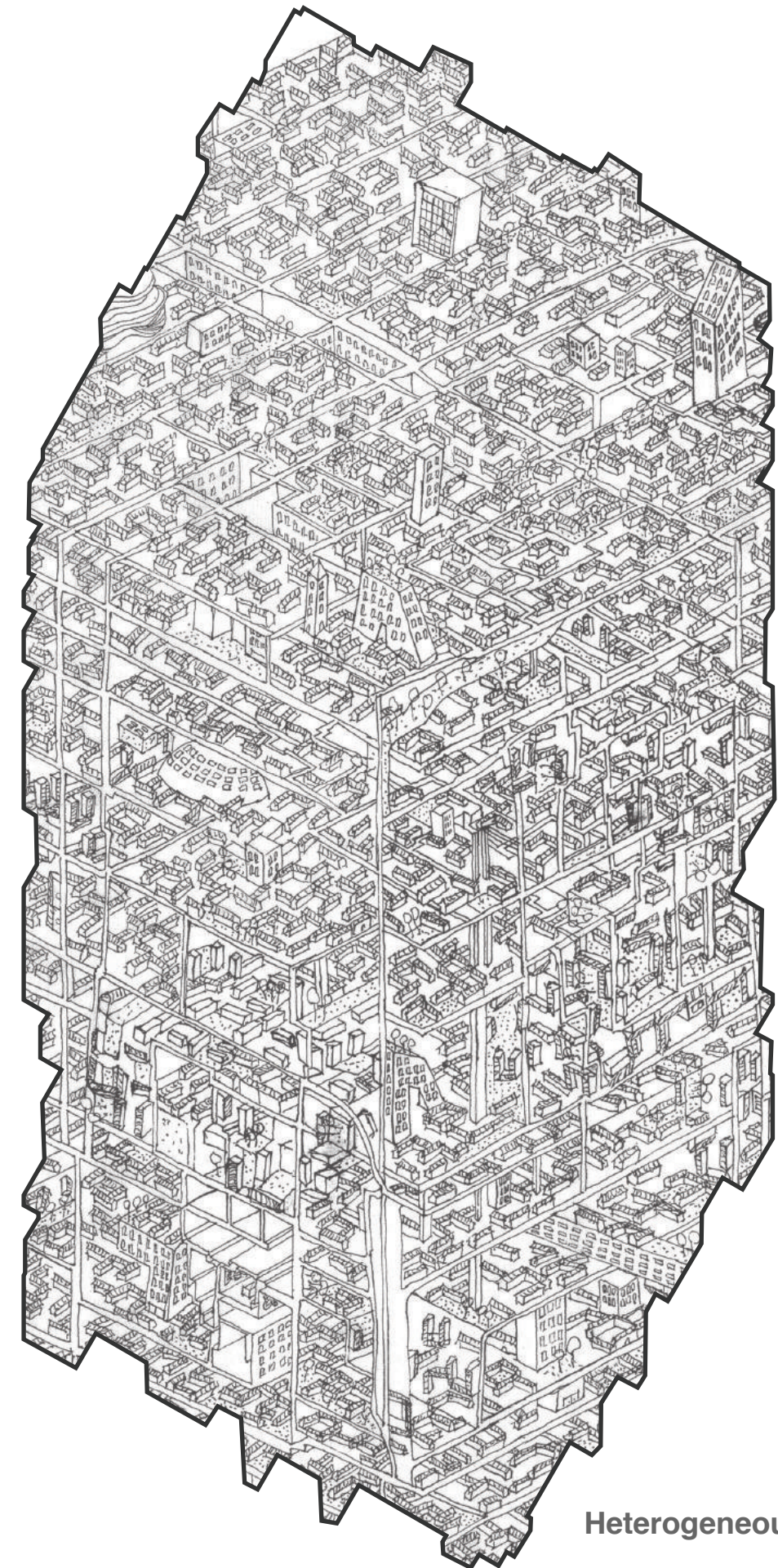


Sectional Space



Sectional Space

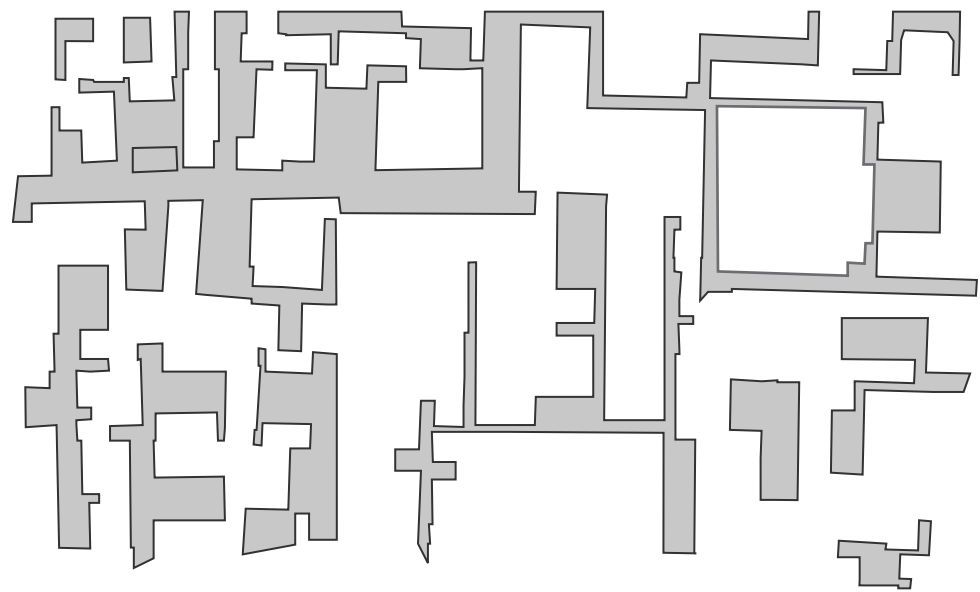
The second fabric is the courtyard cluster. It contains heterogeneous typology. It developed under the demand of high density so the voids are becoming fragmental. But it developed upon the basic framework of the courtyard house so it still keep parts of the fabric. Due to the rising of the density and heights this fabric share parts of the characters of the matt building. But instead of homogeneous it is heterogeneous. The adding parts are random form so they are not consist of a systematic repetition of simple element. In the end, this fabric is a horizontal skyscraper due to its density.



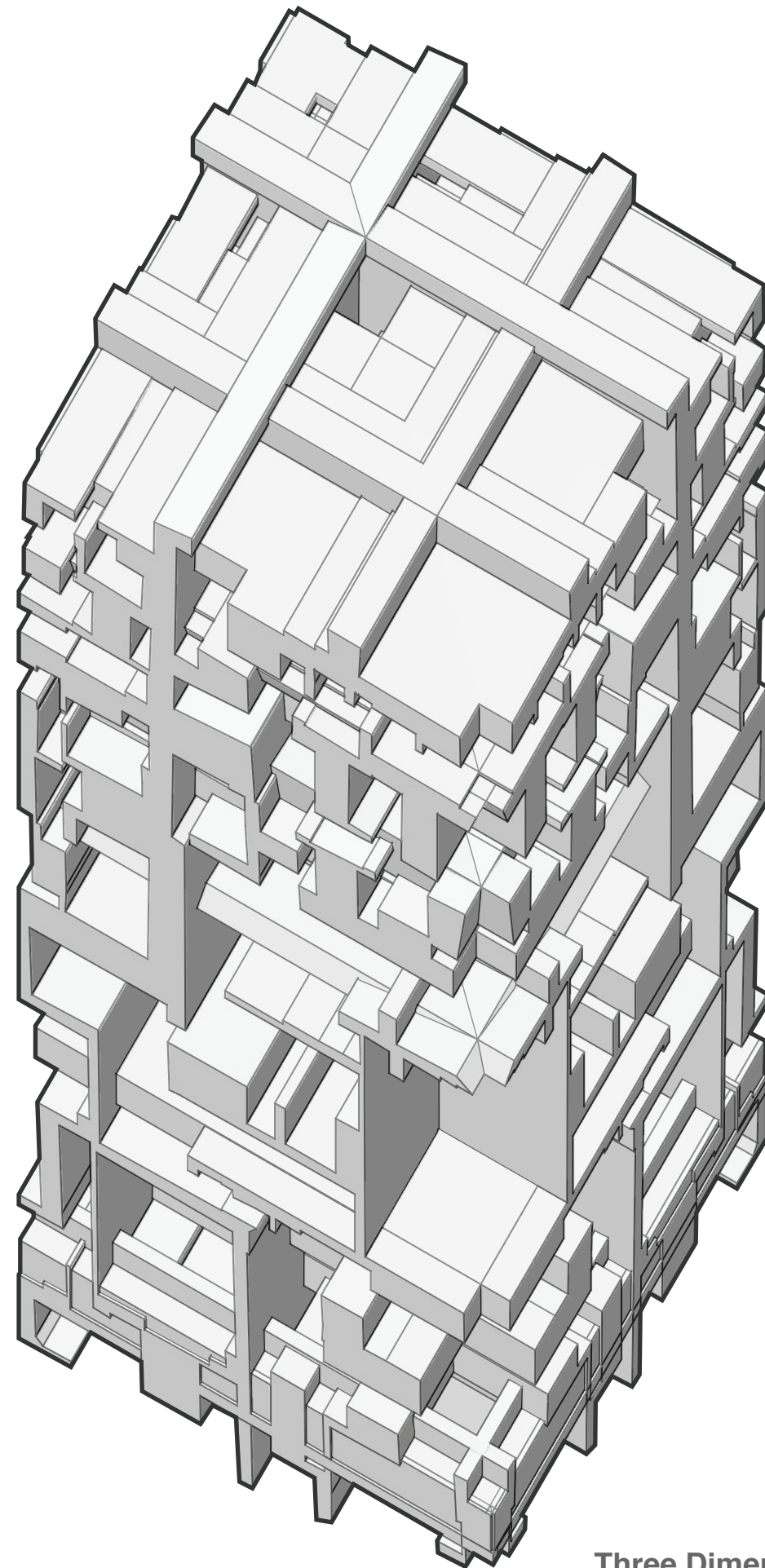
Heterogeneous Urban Typology



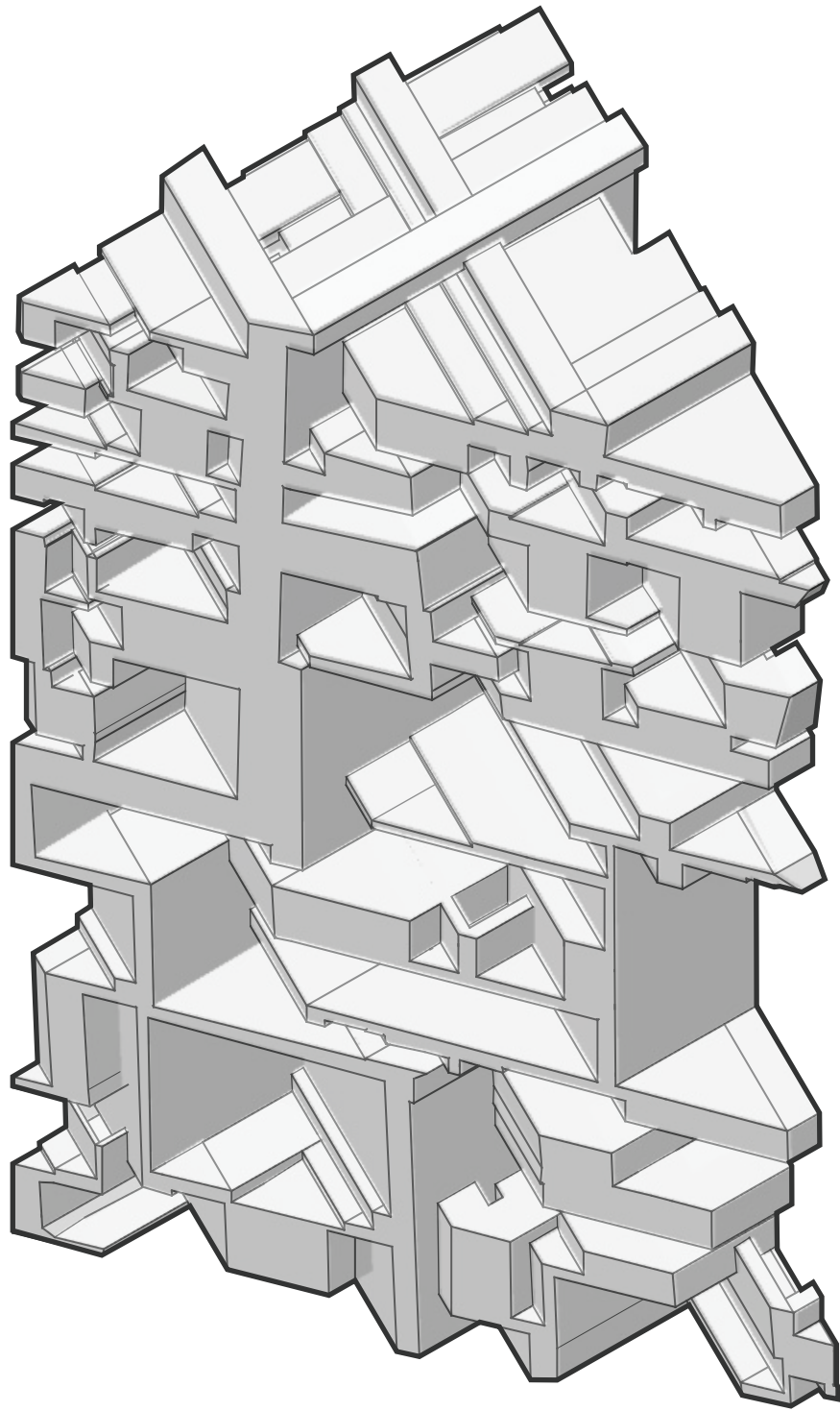
Old hutong Fabric



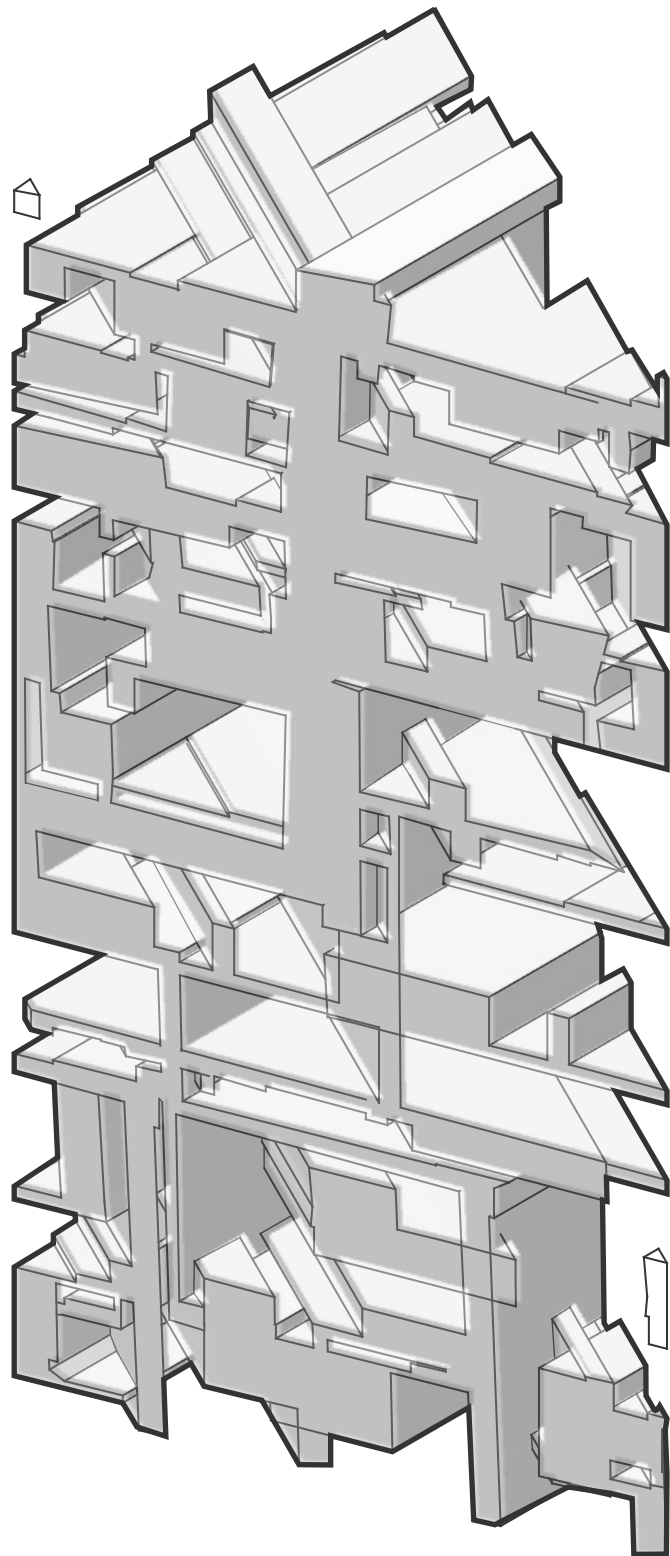
One hutong Block Fabric



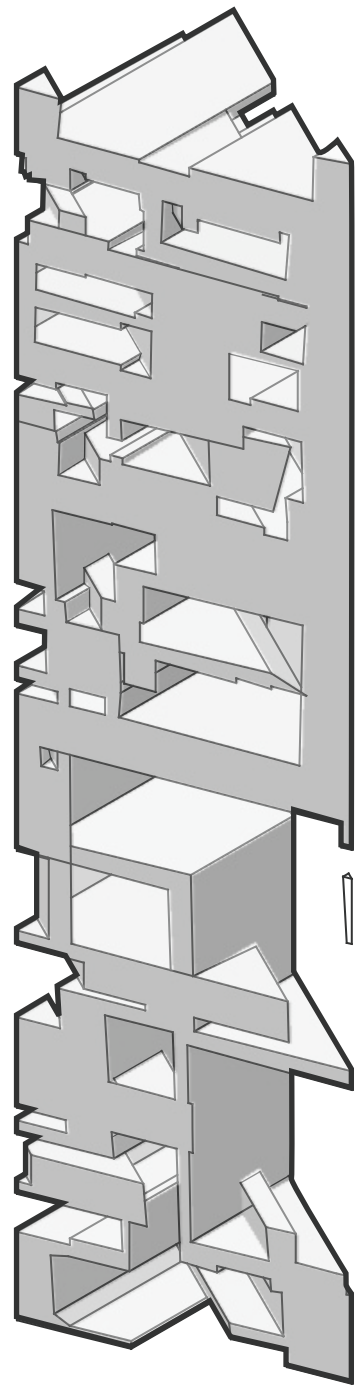
Three Dimensional Reading of the Fabric



Sectional Space



Sectional Space

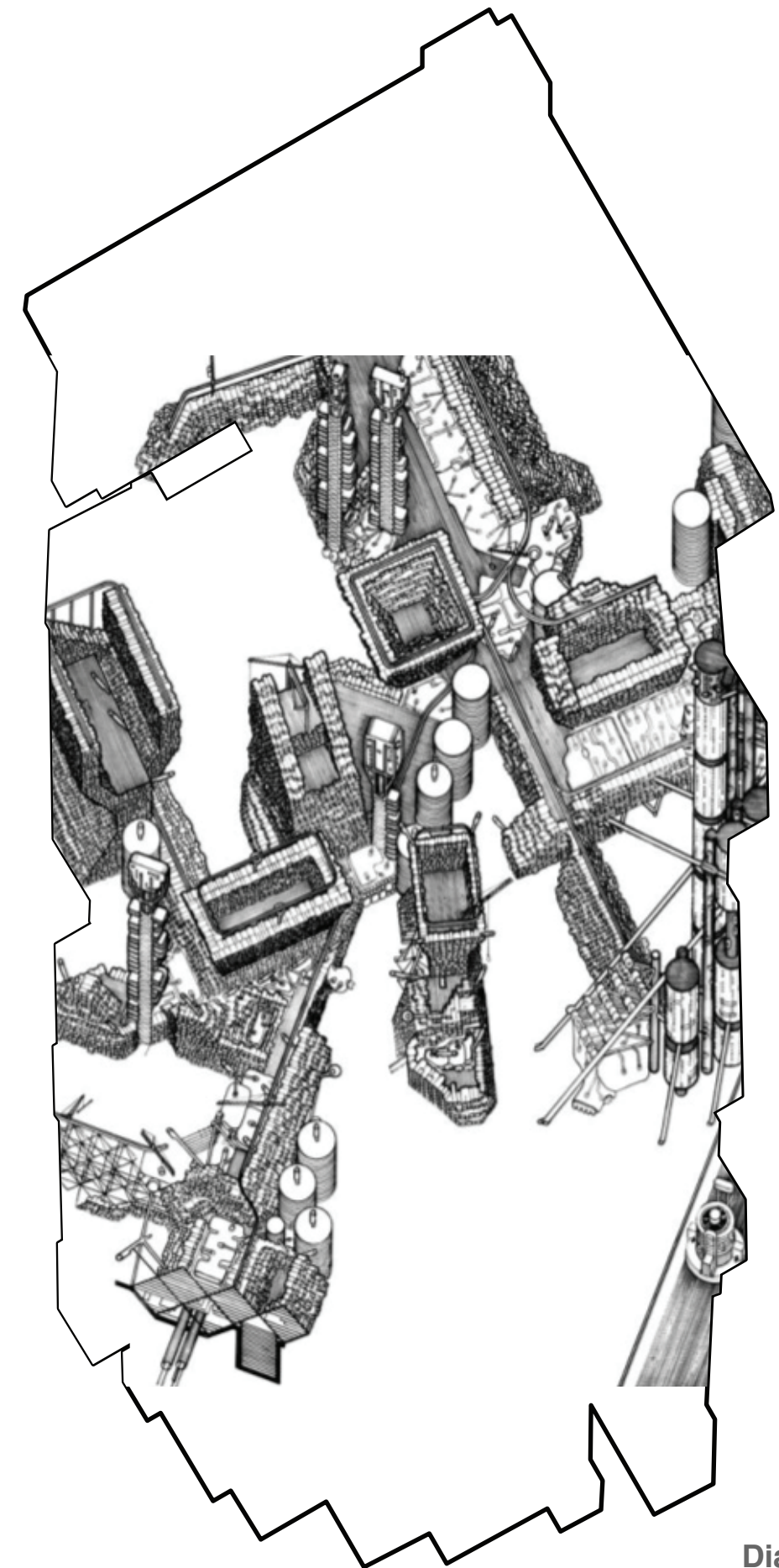


Sectional Space

The last one is the in-between fabric. It is a 'dialectic city'. This fabric demonstrates the struggling between modernity and traditional, complementing and superimposing and so on. So this fabric instead of a static place, it is the combination of several small communities, within that the continuity is being replaced by communication and it still has its own structure.

One of the possible character of the so called "weird" building is figurative. But not all the figurative things are bad. Weird could still be positive. There would be some weird shape exist at the connecting point. But this weird shape is rational. It contains narratives of the organic growth of both standard courtyard house and courtyard cluster. It also influenced the circulation structure in both vertical and horizontal. It end up with a lot of exposed infrastructure.

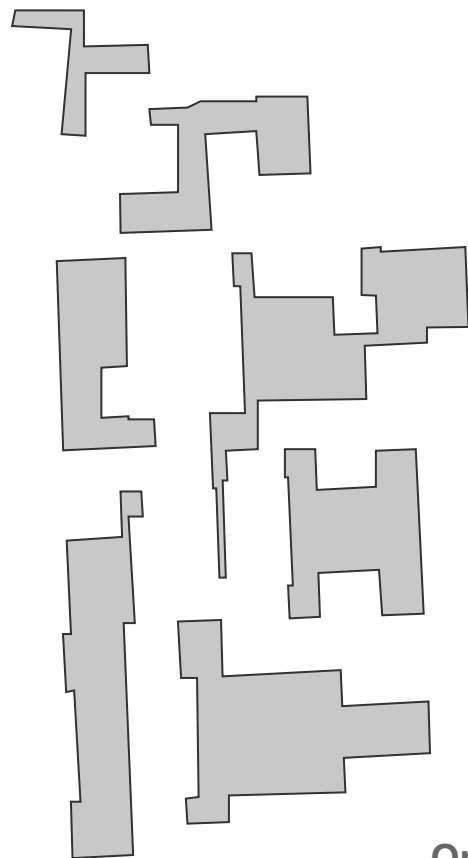
The fabric is a paradigm, within it the traditional becomes in a new form and it uniformed with the modernity.



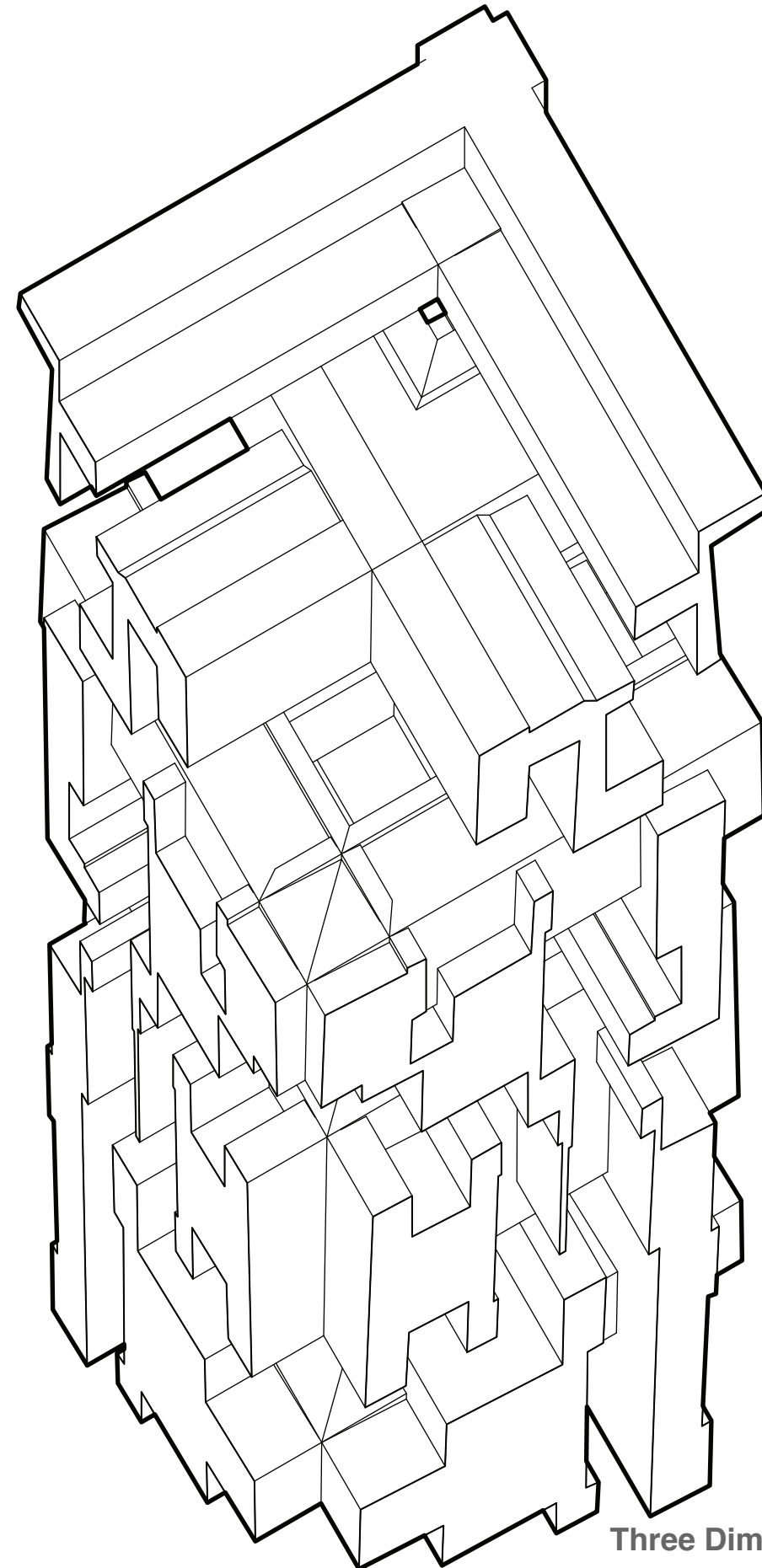
Dialectic City



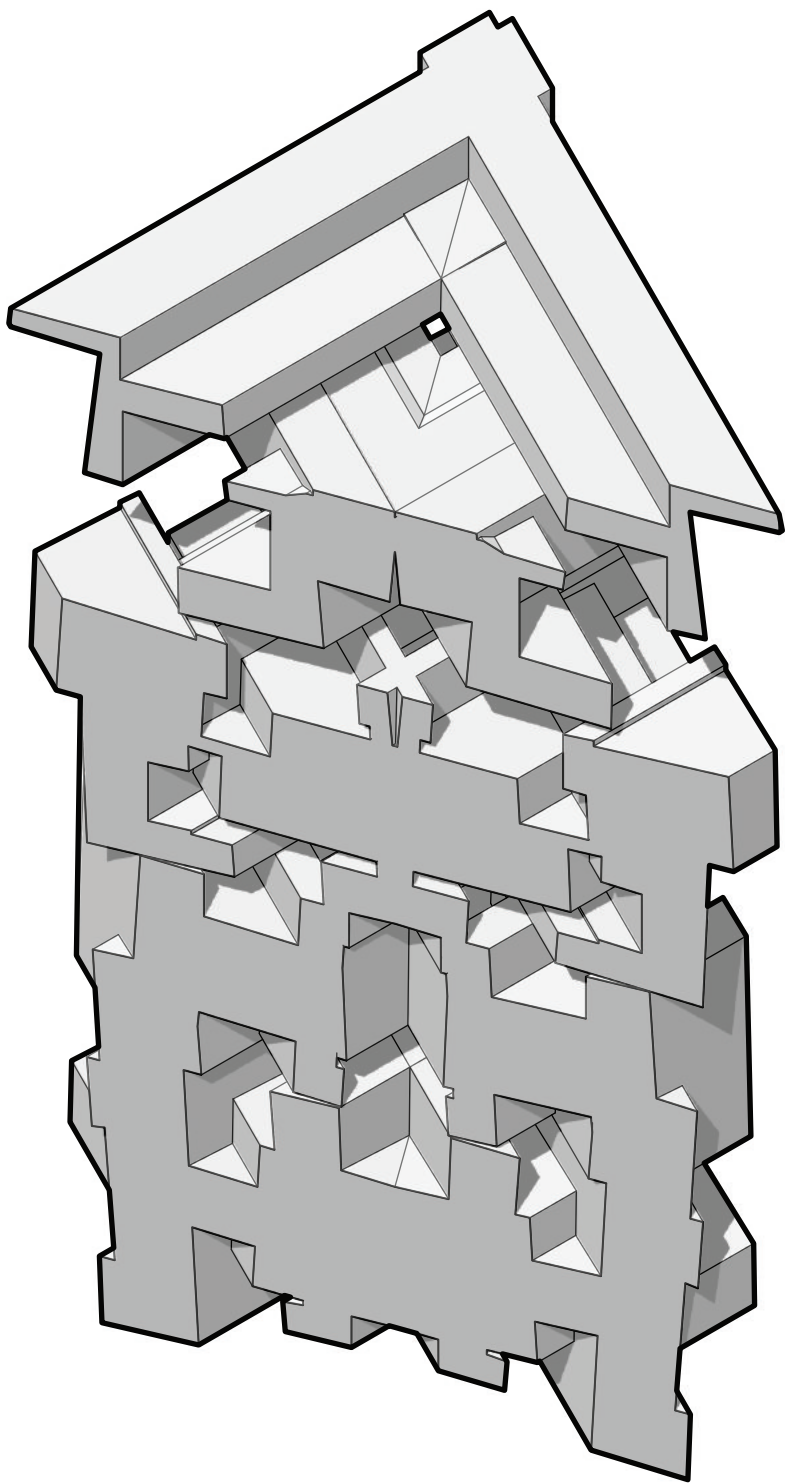
Old hutong Fabric



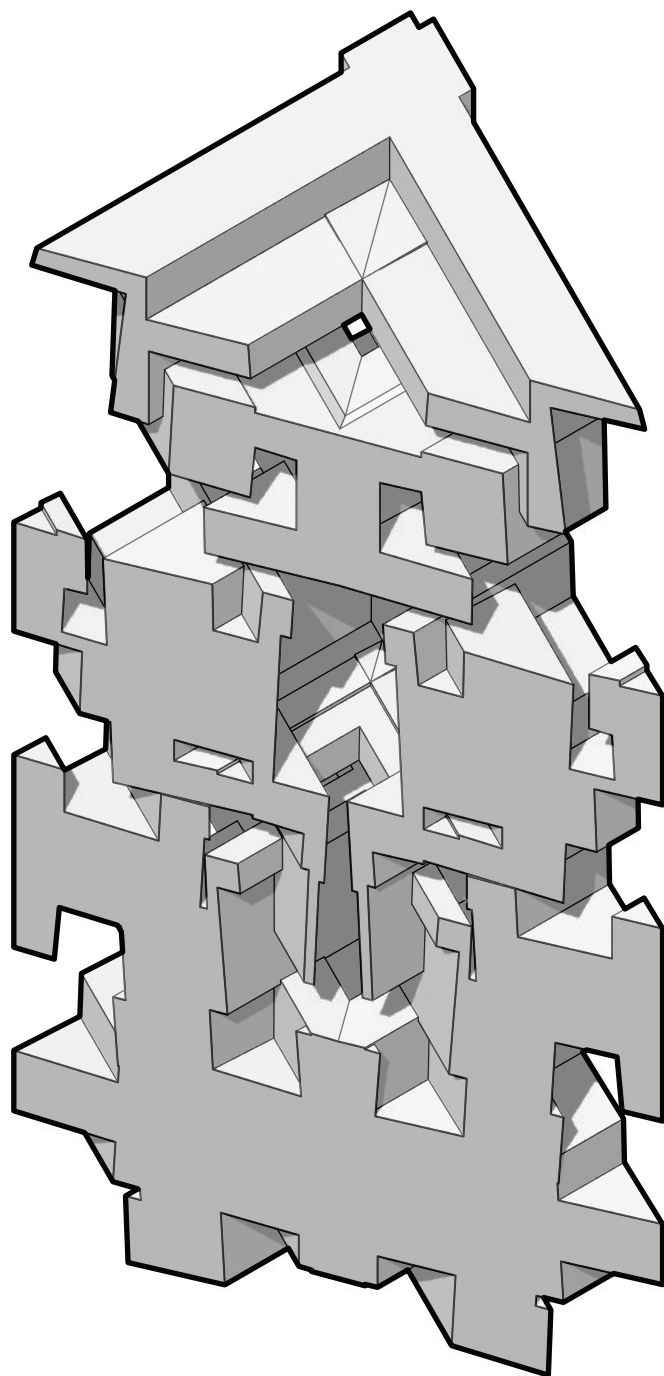
One hutong Block Fabric



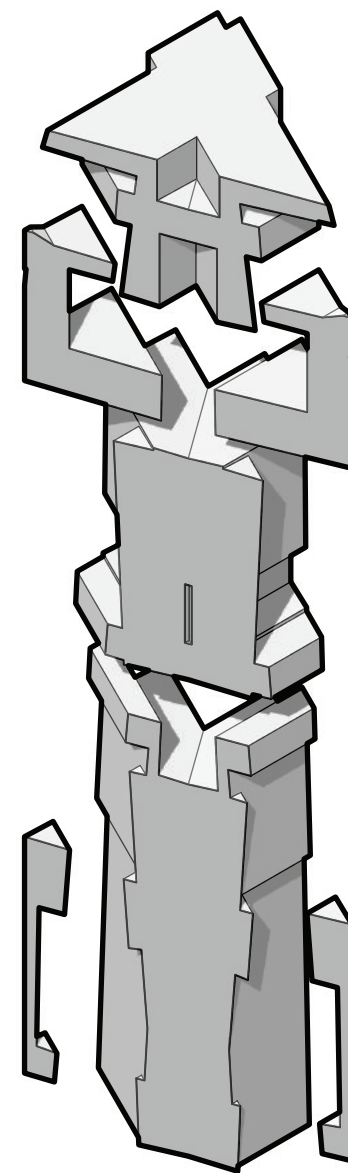
Three Dimensional Reading of the Fabric



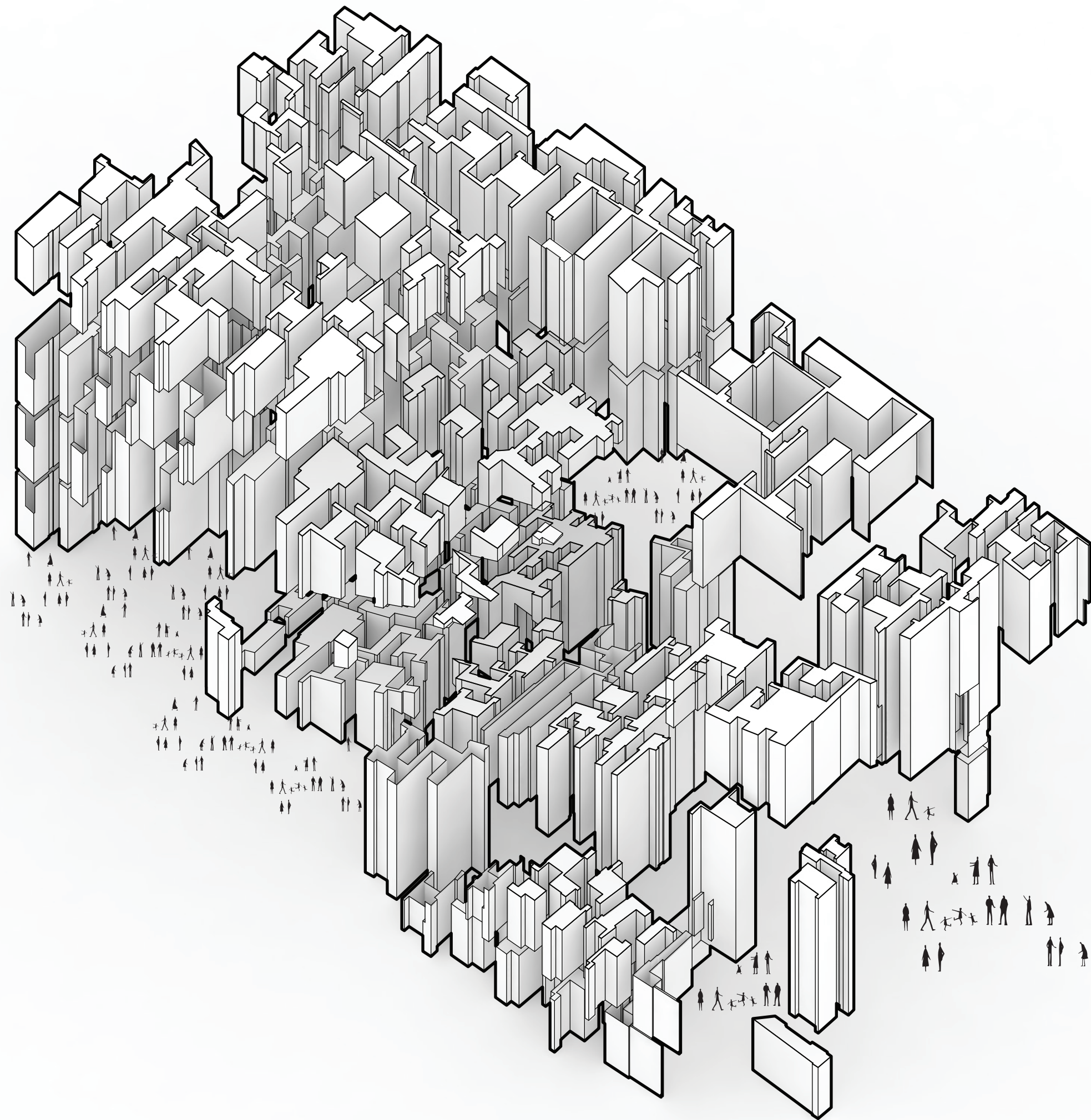
Sectional Space



Sectional Space



Sectional Space



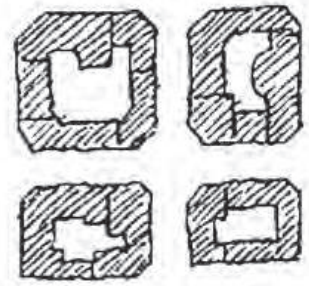
New Weird Typology Proposal

China's New Weird

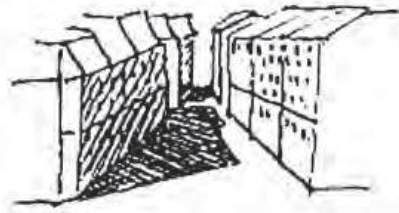
奇奇怪怪的建筑

A new urban typology for Beijing

Open Block



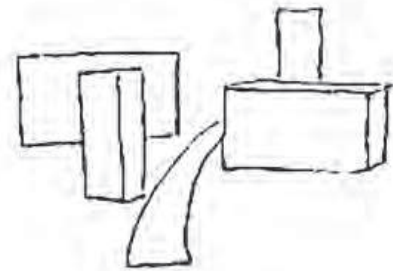
ilot farm



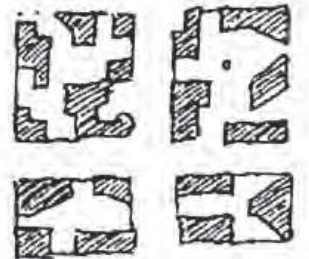
rue corridor



open planning



rue ouverte



*ilot ouvert
immeubles
presque libres*



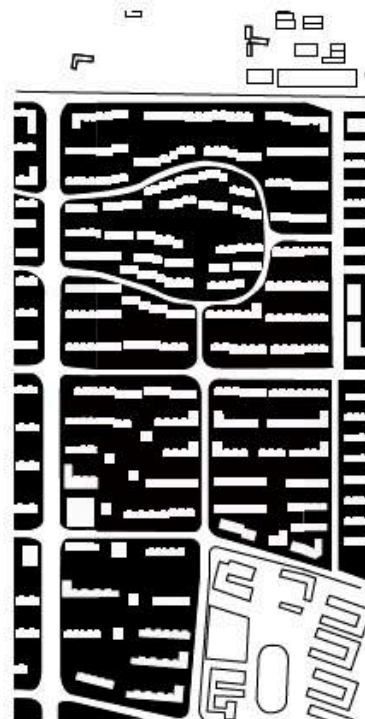
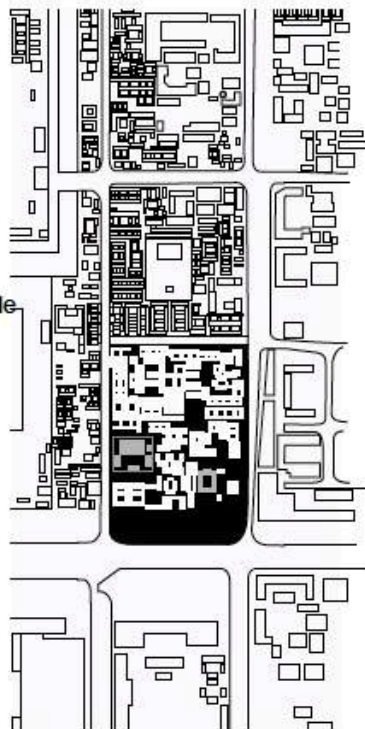
Courtyard House

Danwei Community

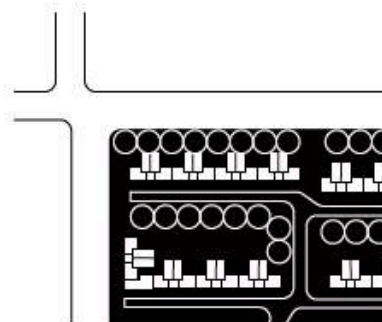
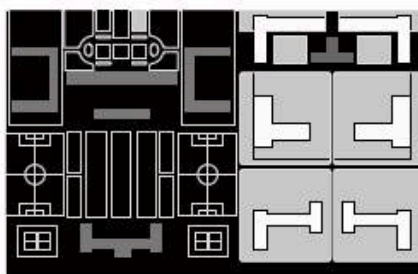
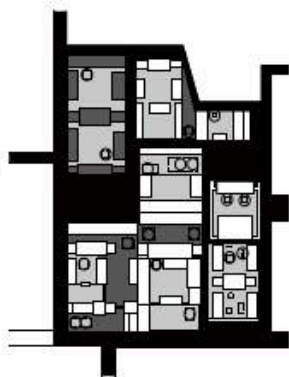
Megaplot

Private
Public

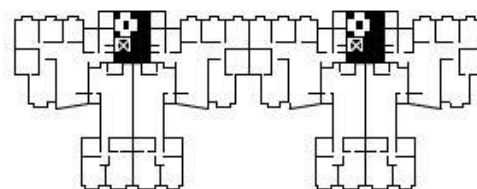
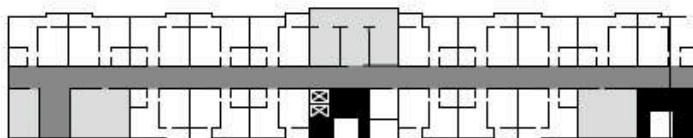
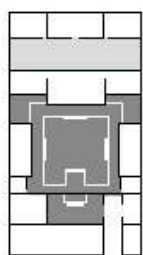
Blocking Unit Scale



Building Scale



Floor Scale

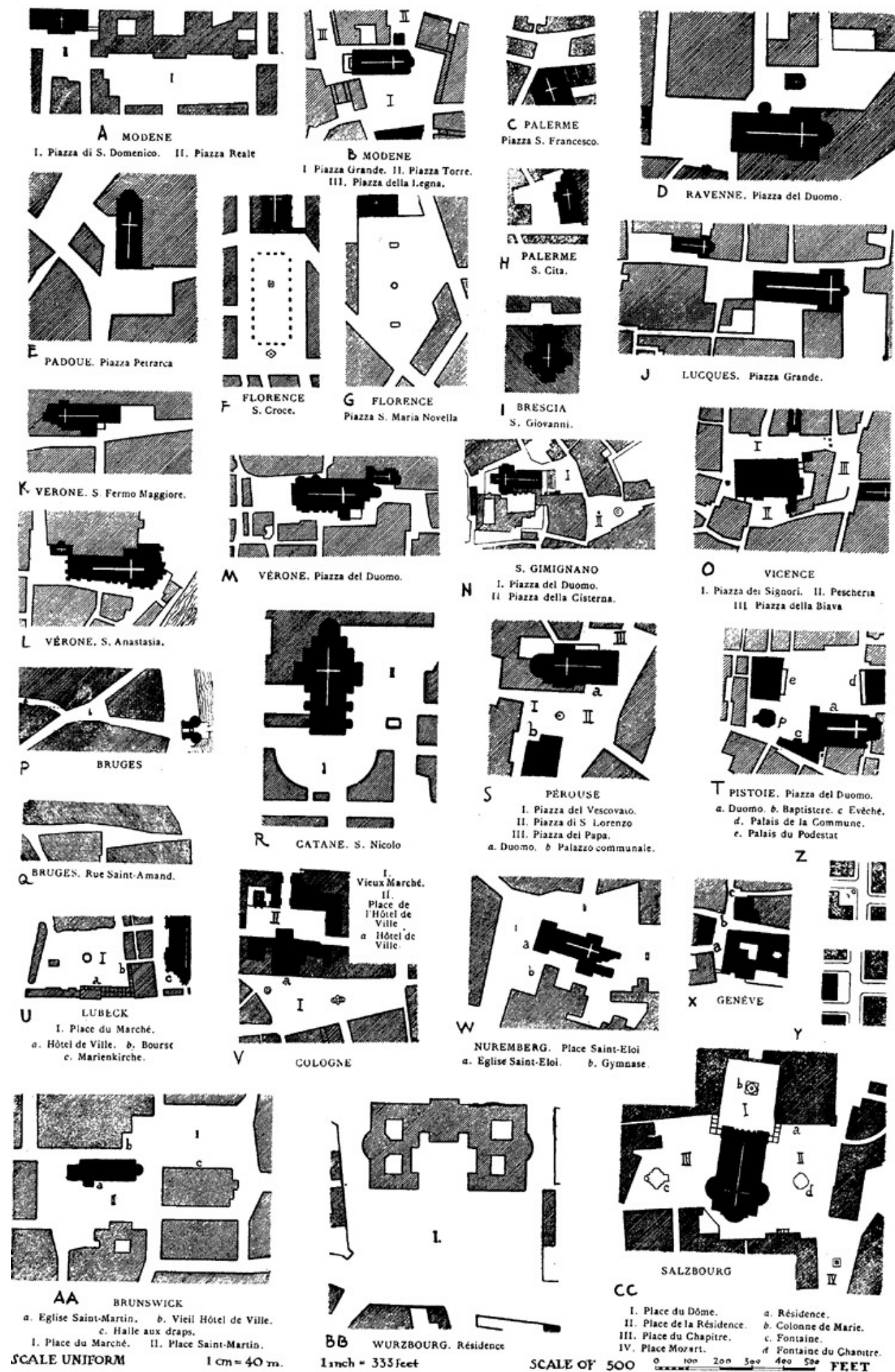
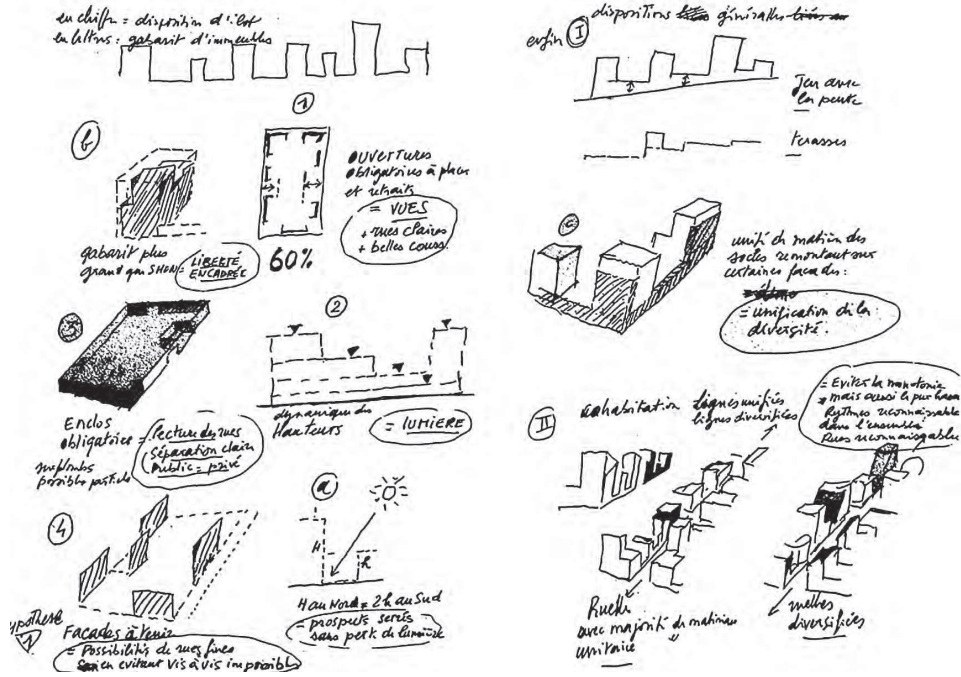


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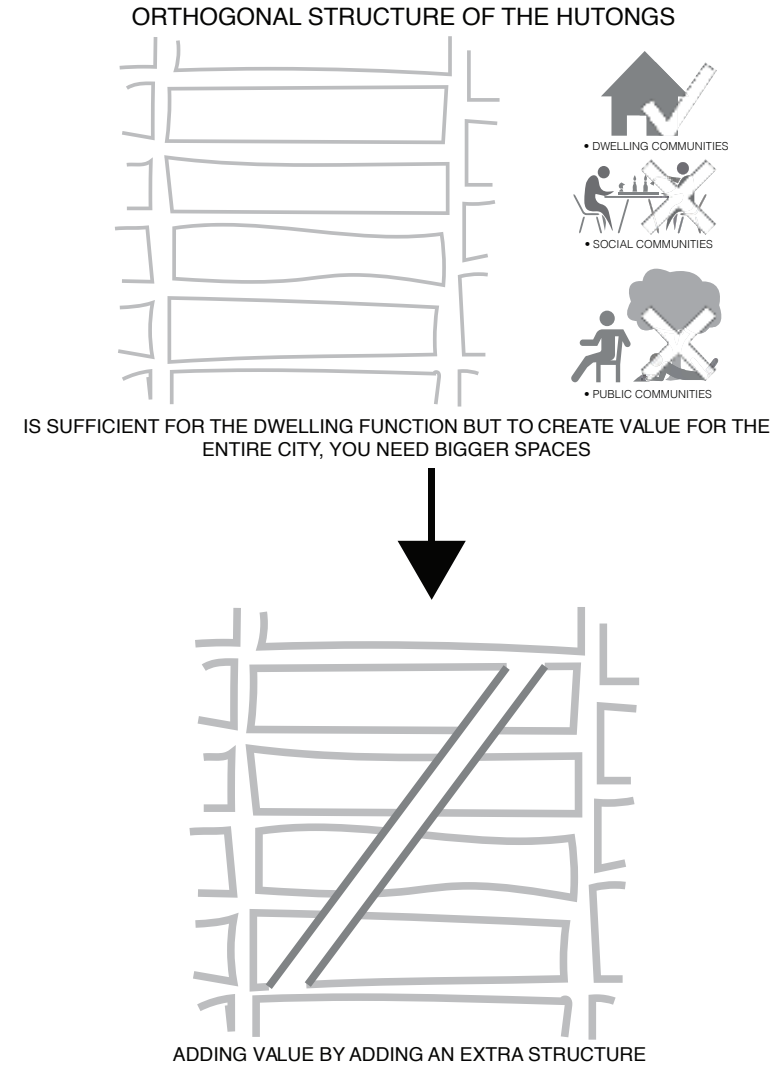
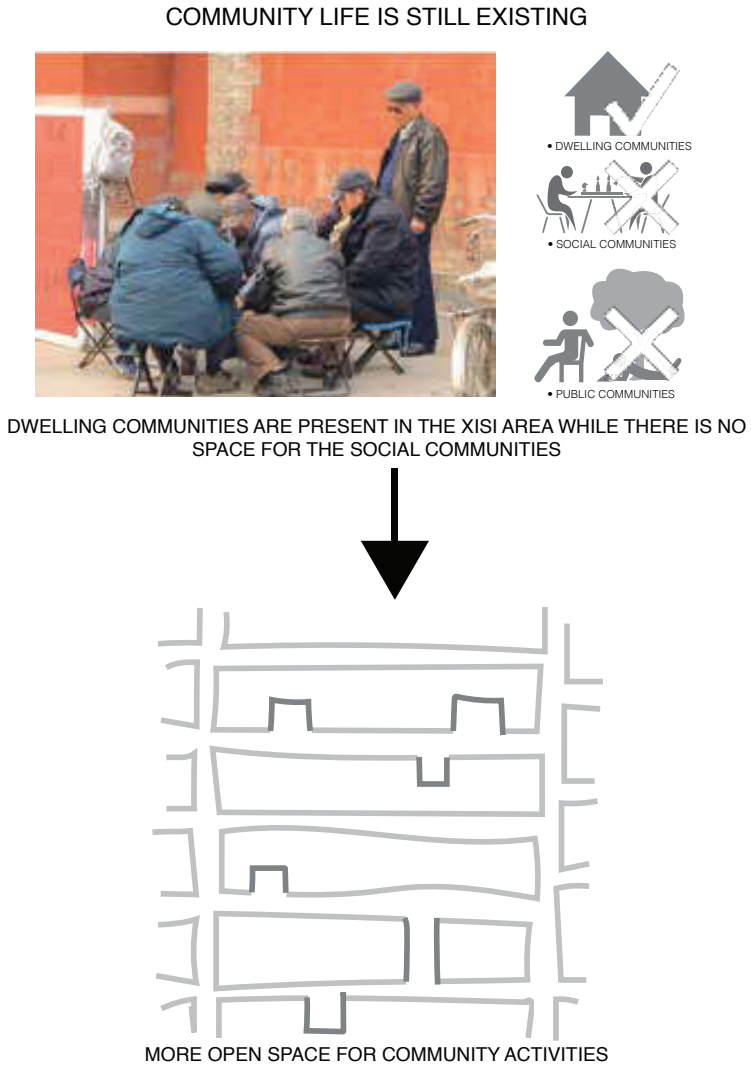


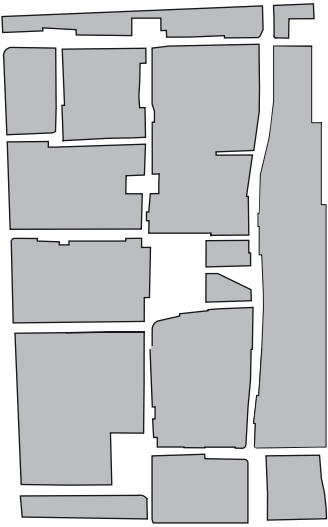
FIGS. 48-76 (A-CC)—TWENTY-NINE PLANS, AT UNIFORM SCALE, FROM CAMILLO SITTE




China's New Weird

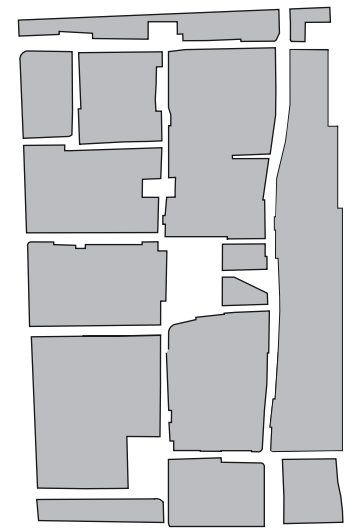
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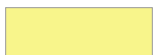


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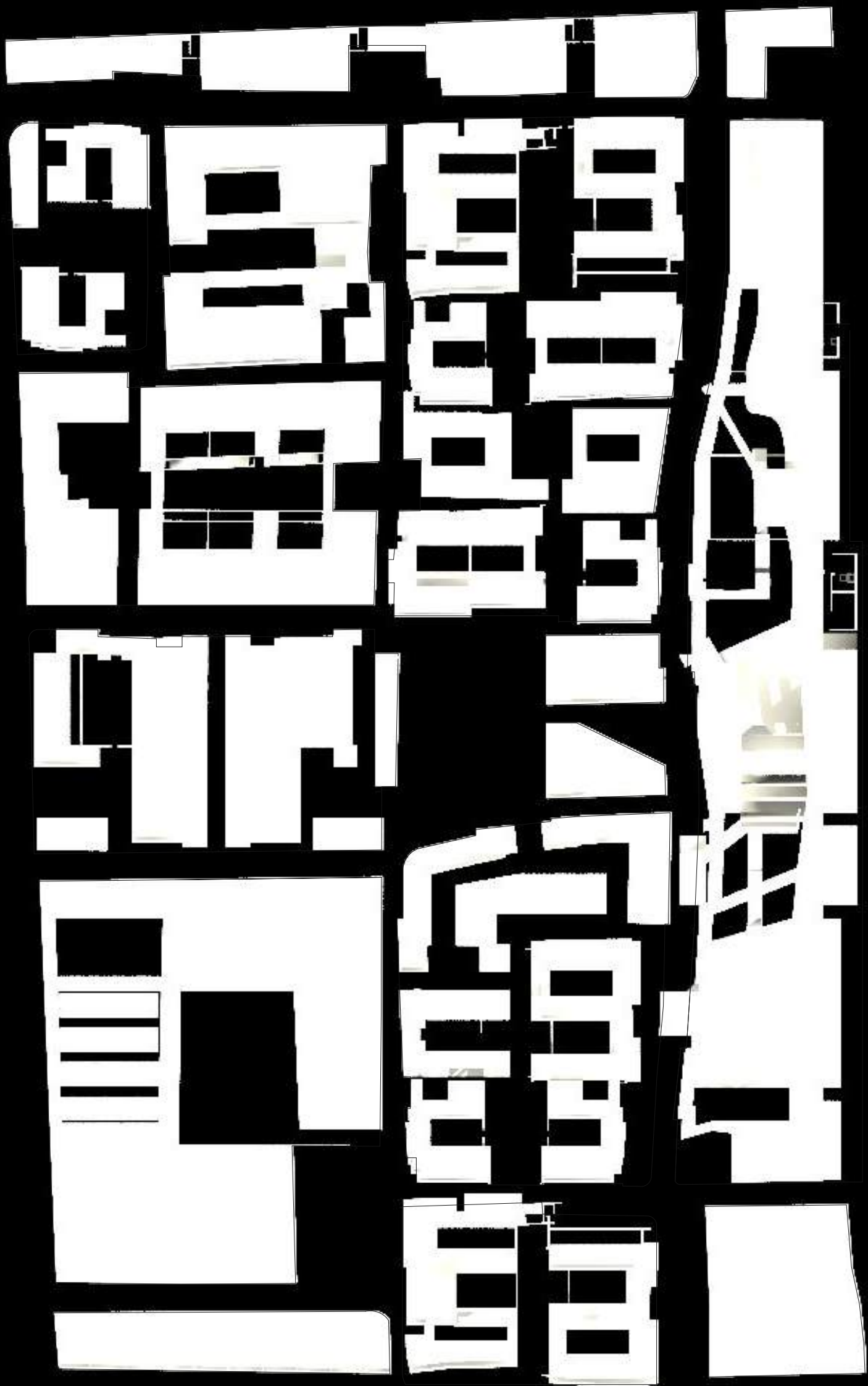


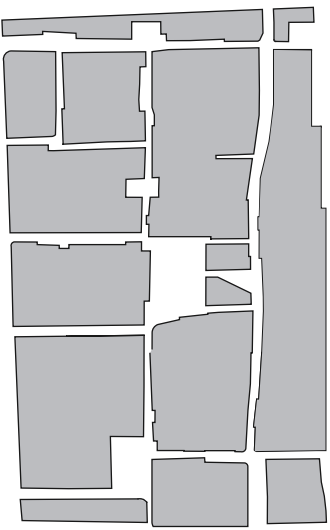


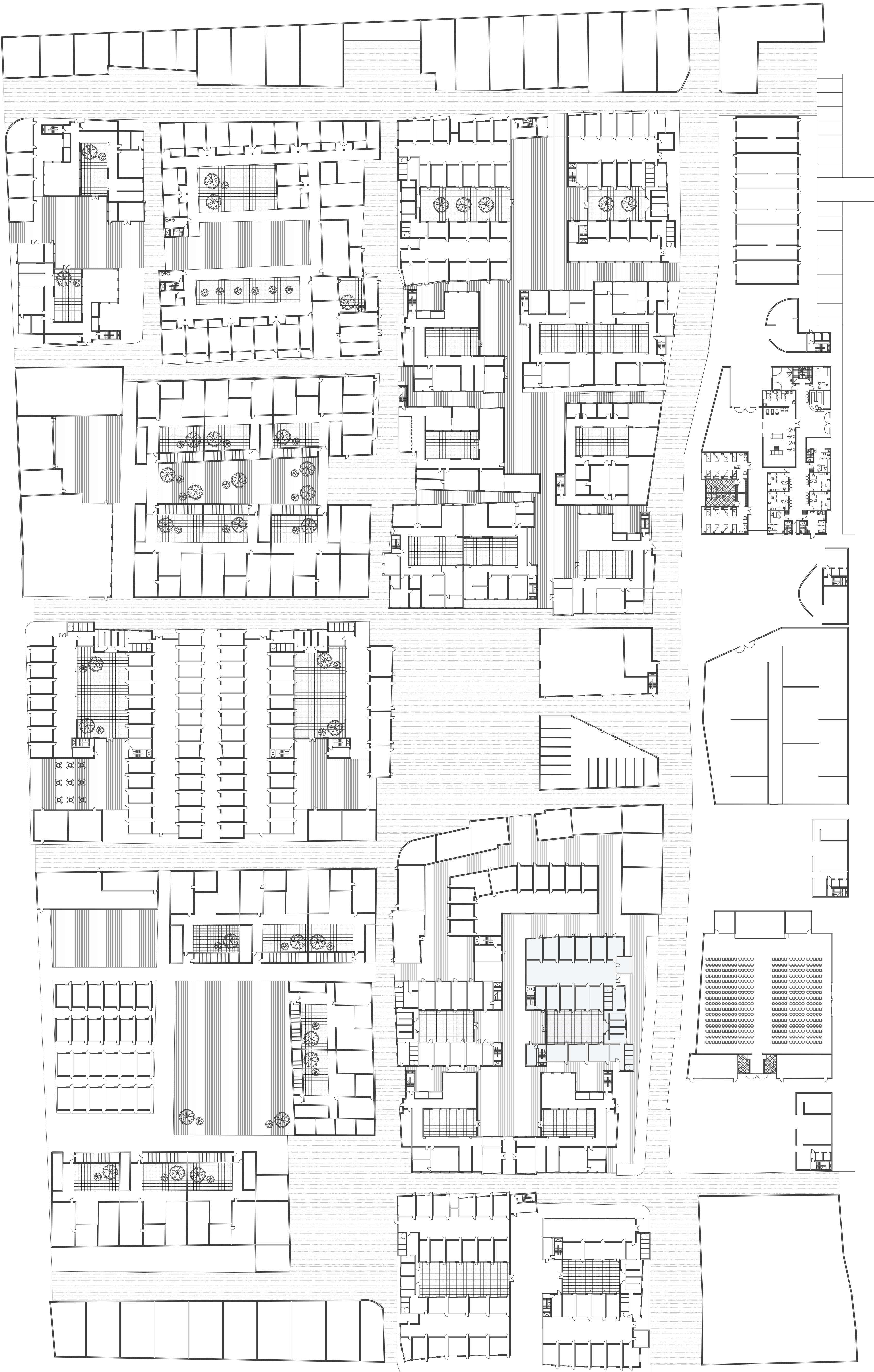
-  Residential Type I:
Multi-generation Housing
-  Residential Type II:
Couple Dwelling
-  Residential Type III:
Single person Housing



-  Residential
-  Commercial
-  Service







Ground Floor Plan
1:400

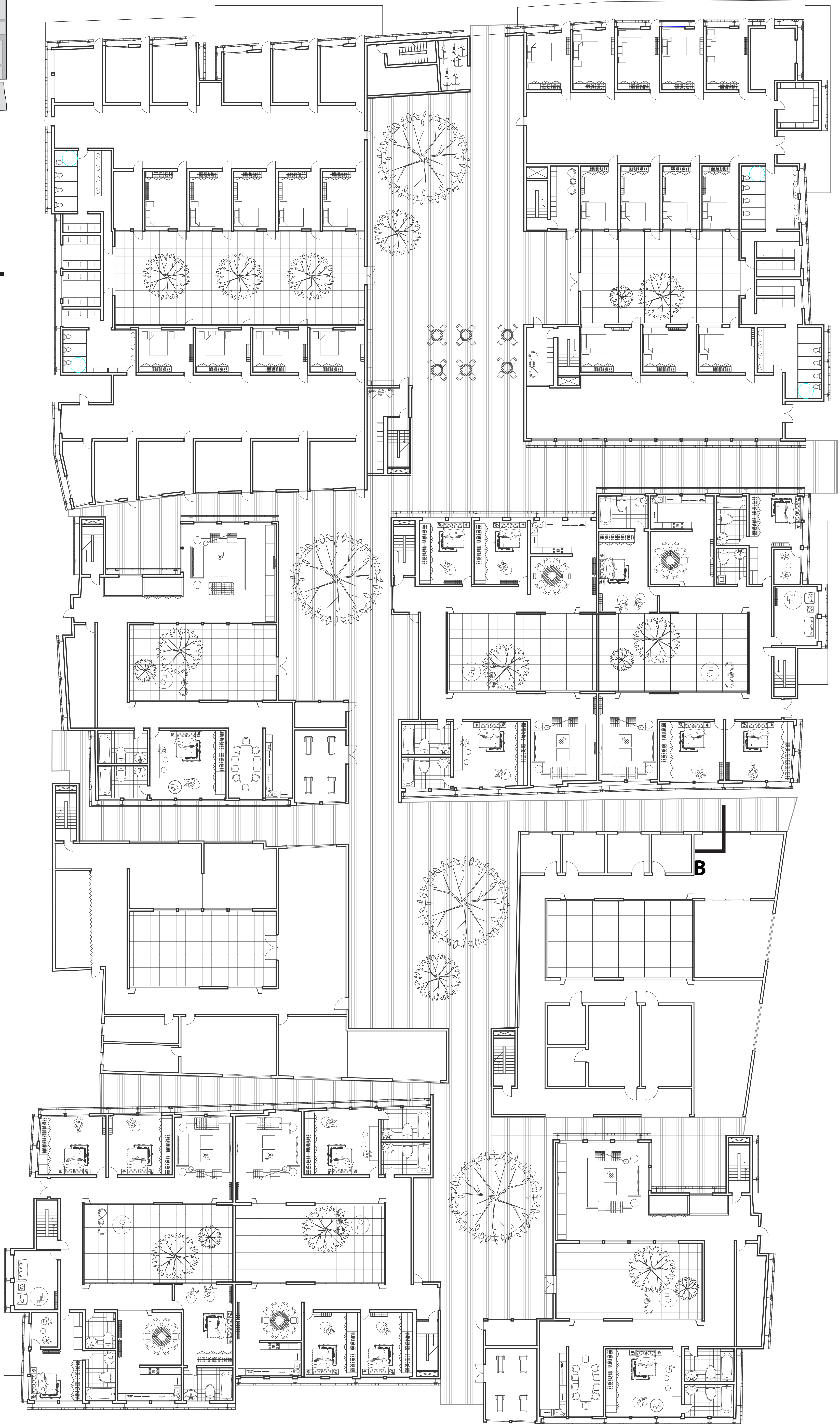


A

B

A

B

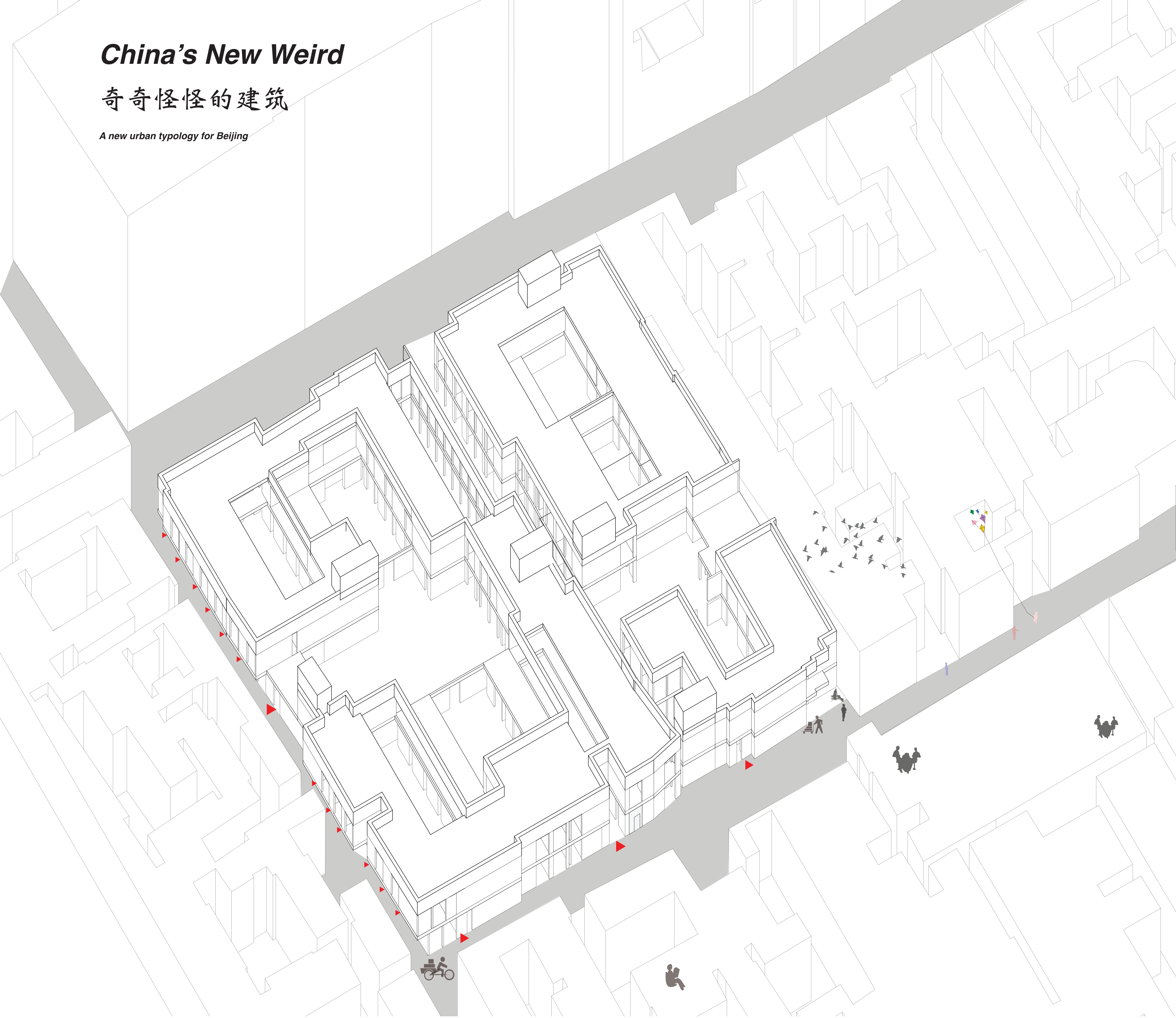


Community I:
Ground Floor Plan
1:100

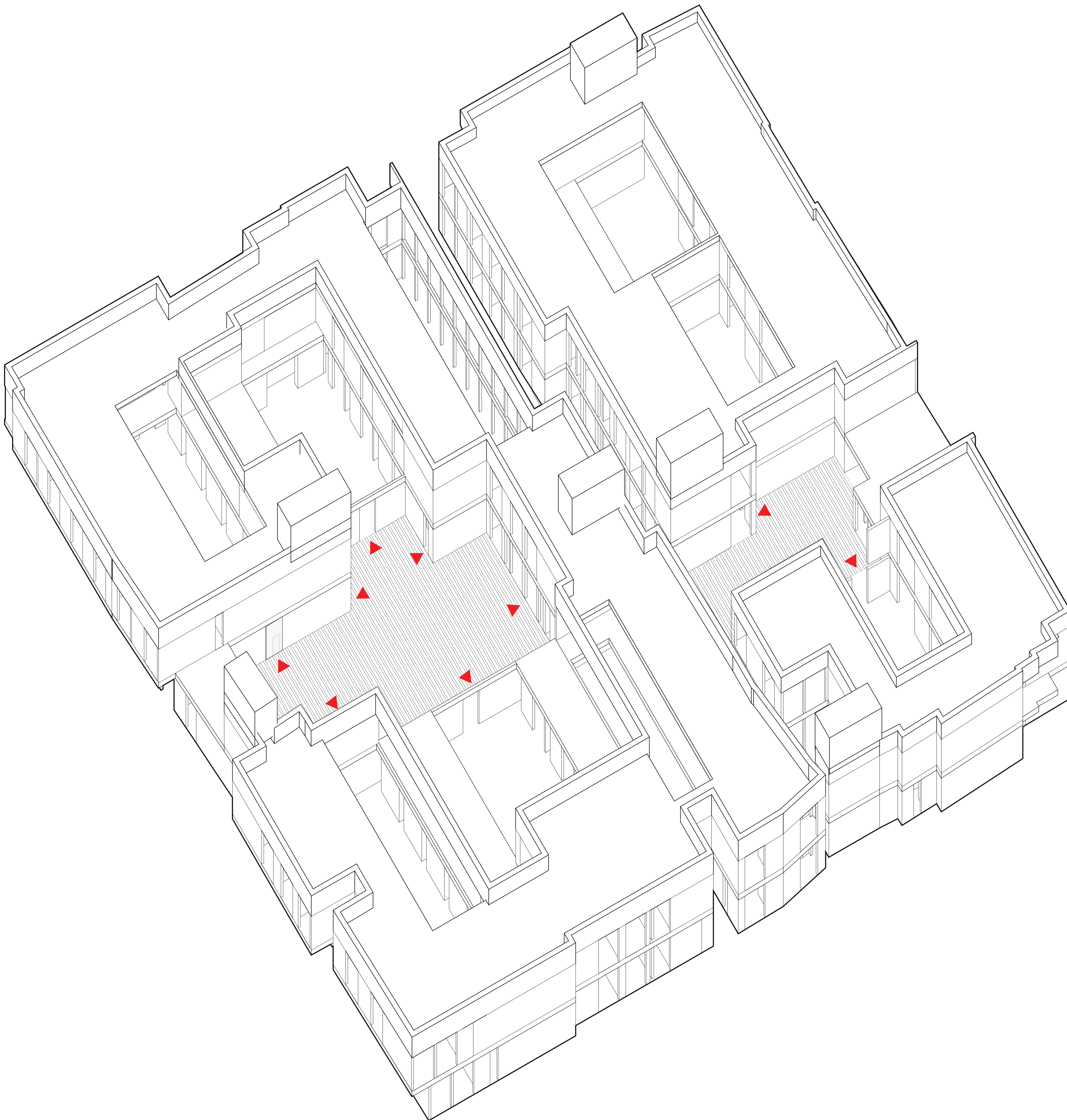
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HUTONG ALLEY
PUBLIC



COMMUNAL YARD
COMMUNAL PUBLIC



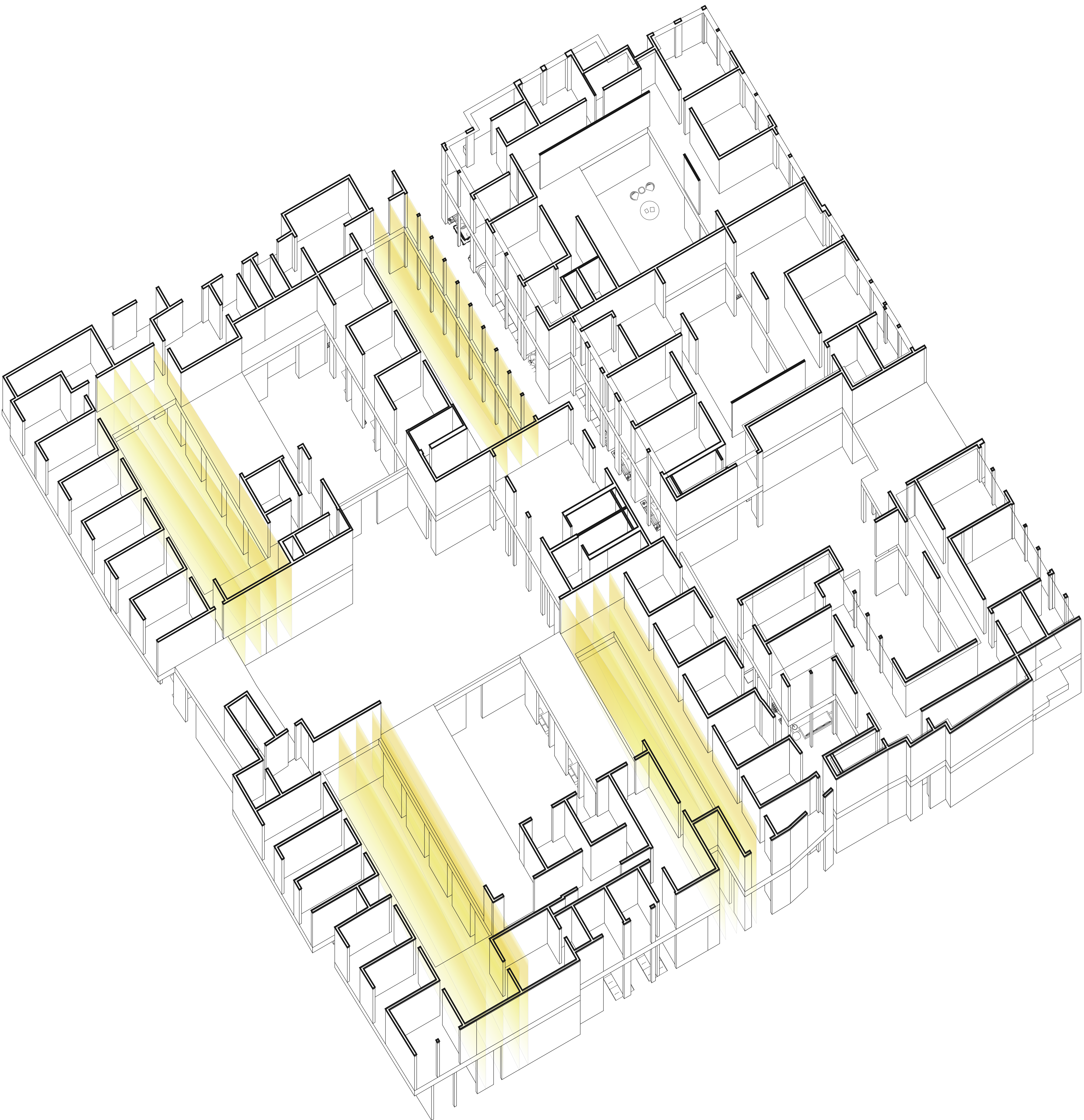
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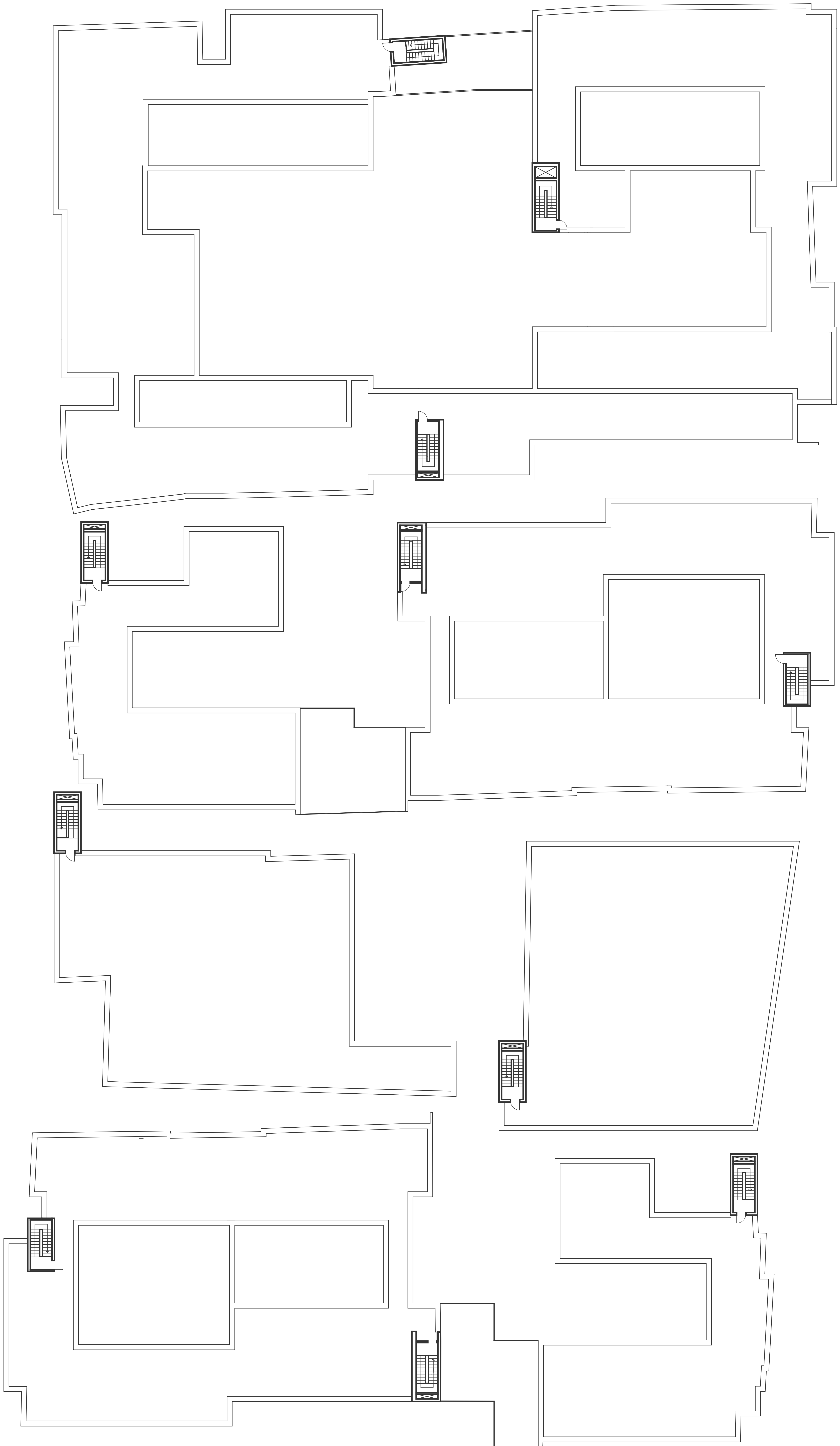
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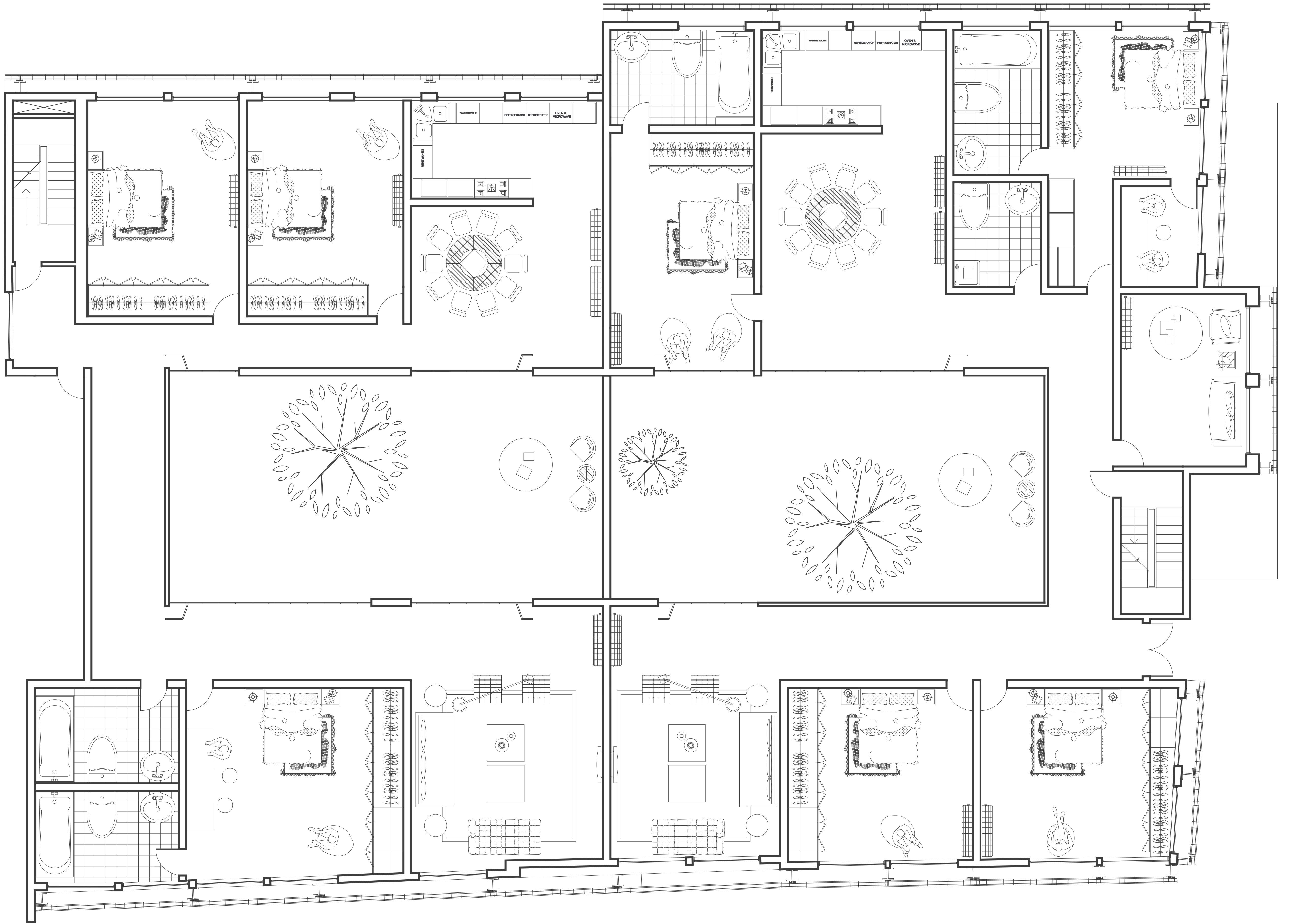


COURTYARD
SEMI-PUBLIC



LIGHT WELL
SEMI-PRIVATE

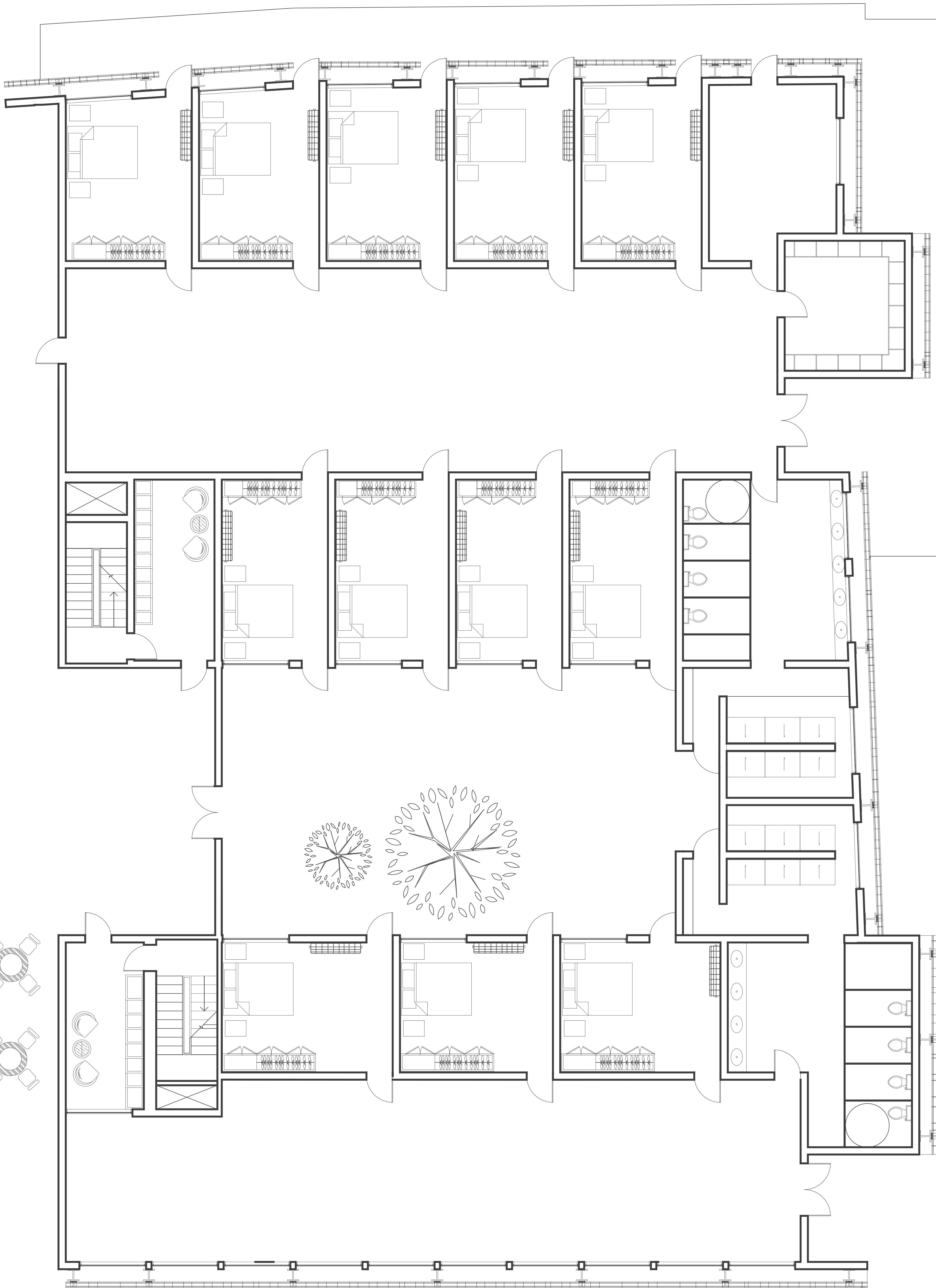
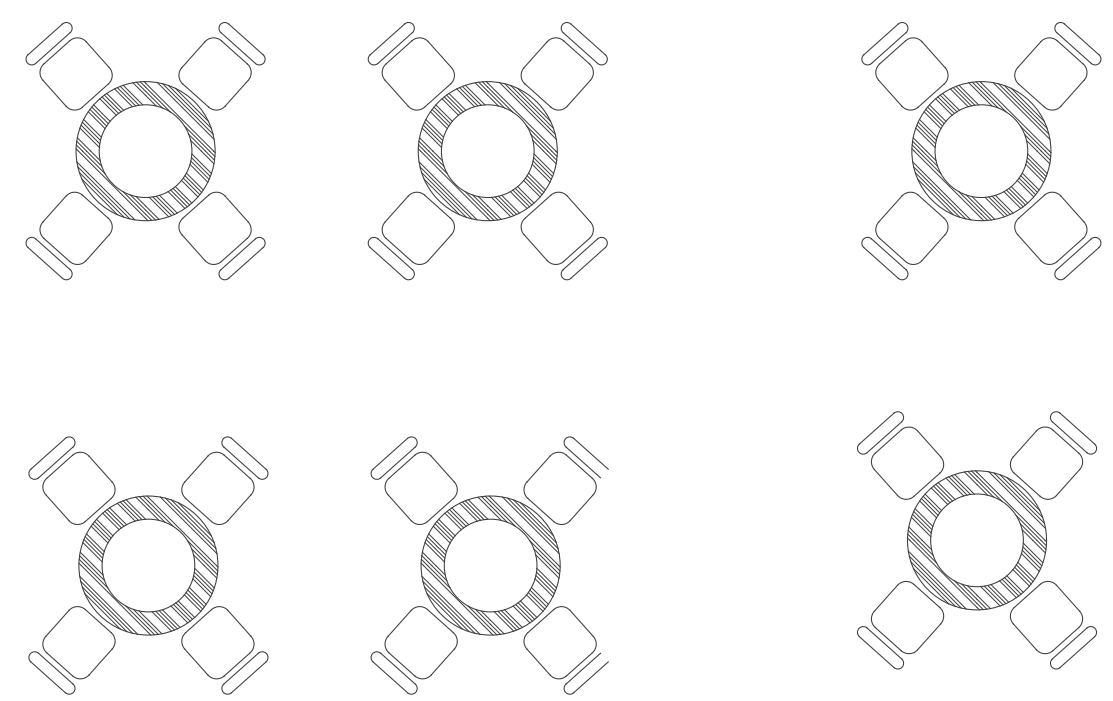
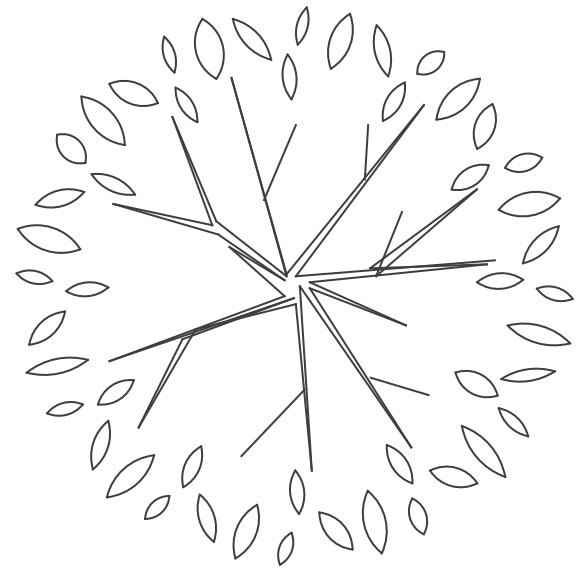
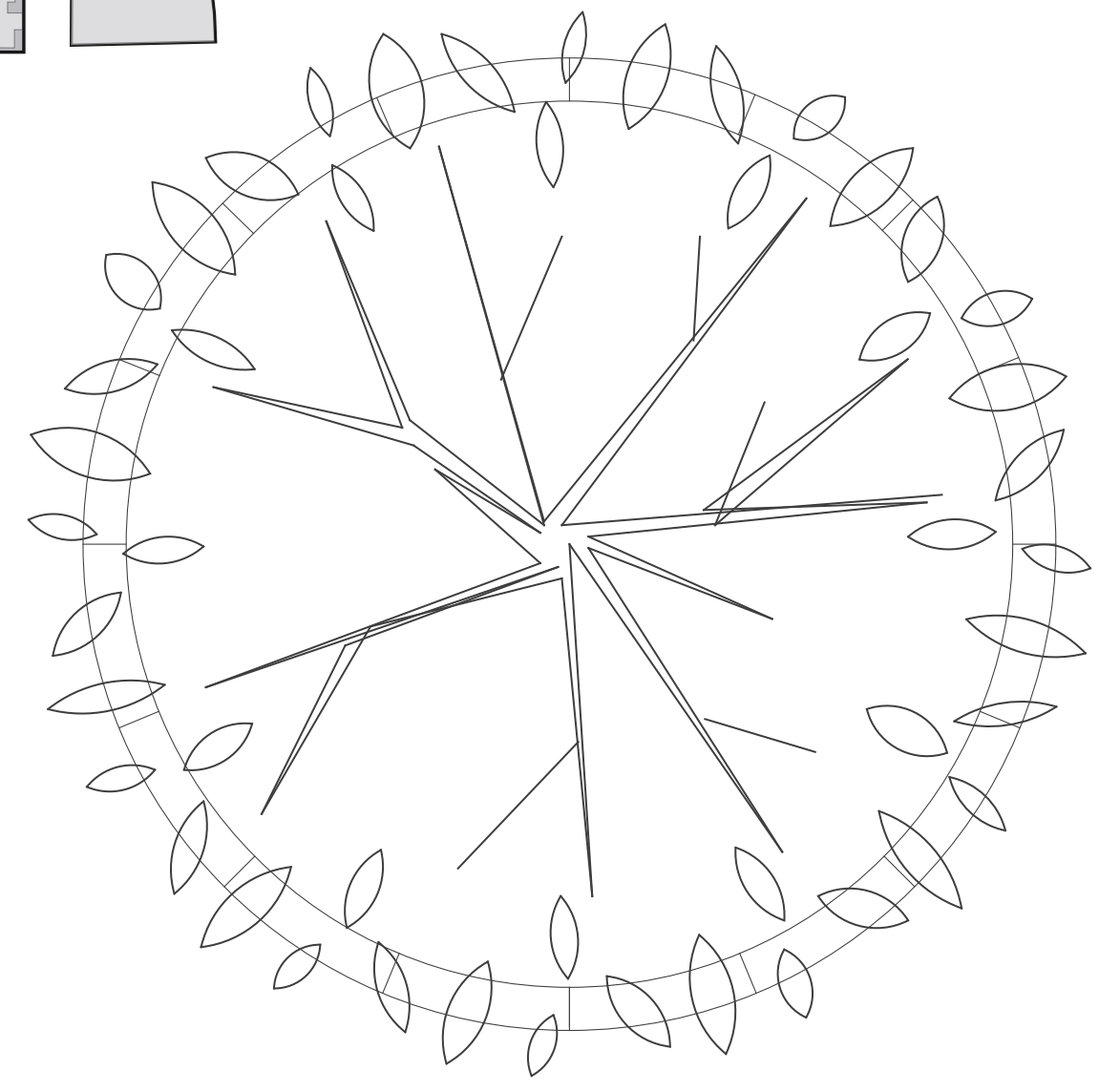




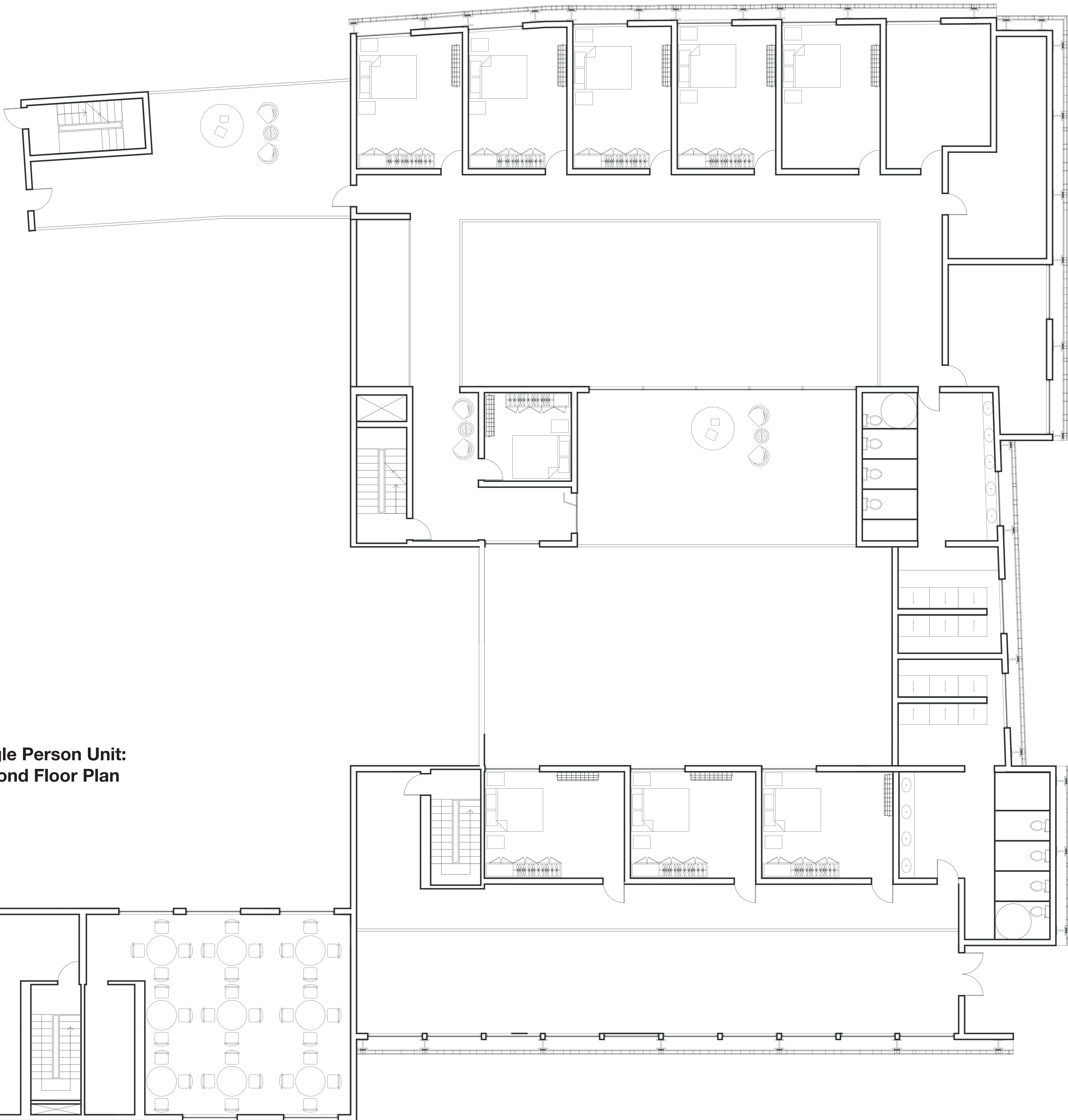
📍 **Multi-generation Unit:**
Ground Floor Plan
1:50



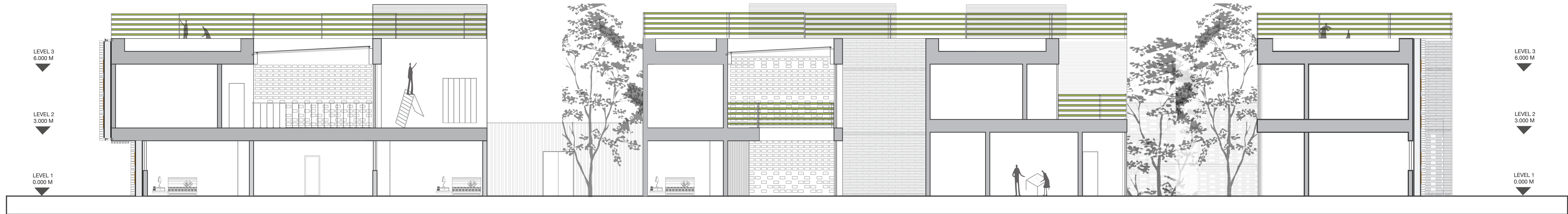
📍 **Multi-generation Unit:**
Second Floor Plan
1:50



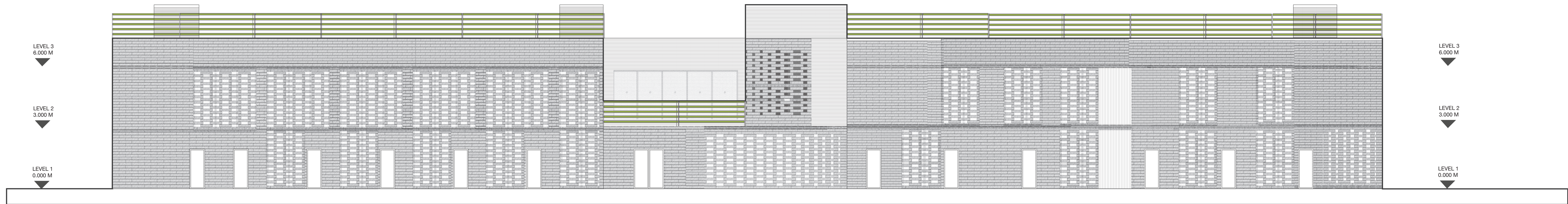
🕒 **Single Person Unit:**
Ground Floor Plan
1:50



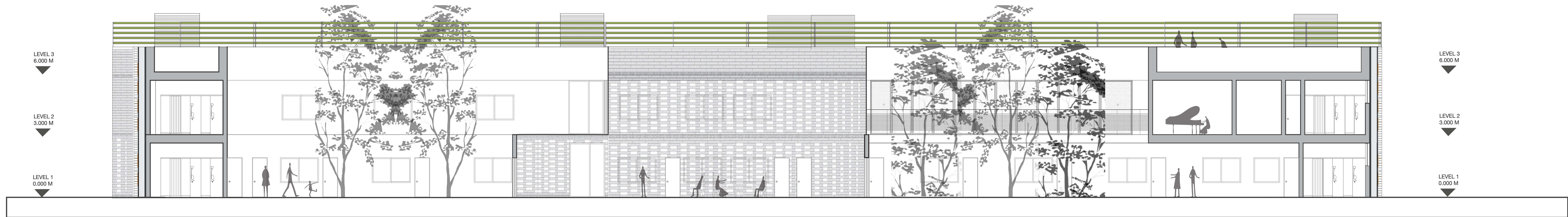
🕒 **Single Person Unit:**
Second Floor Plan
1:50



B-B Section 1:50



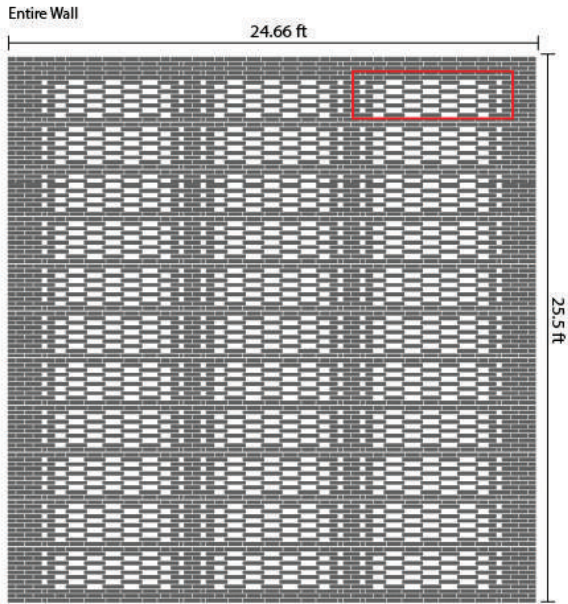
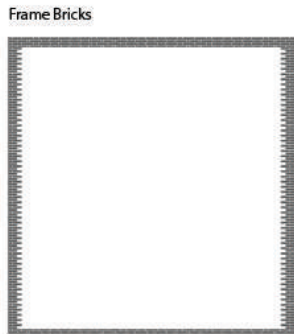
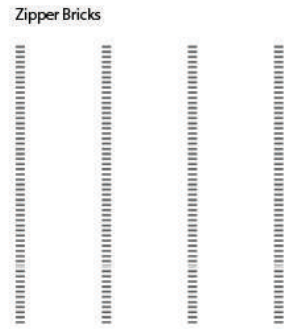
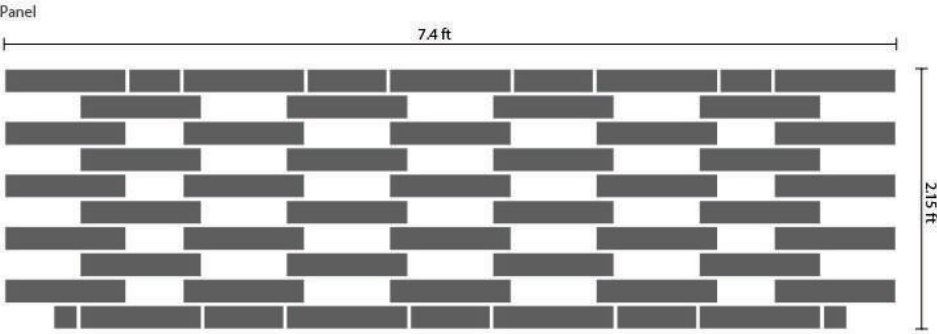
North Elevation 1:50



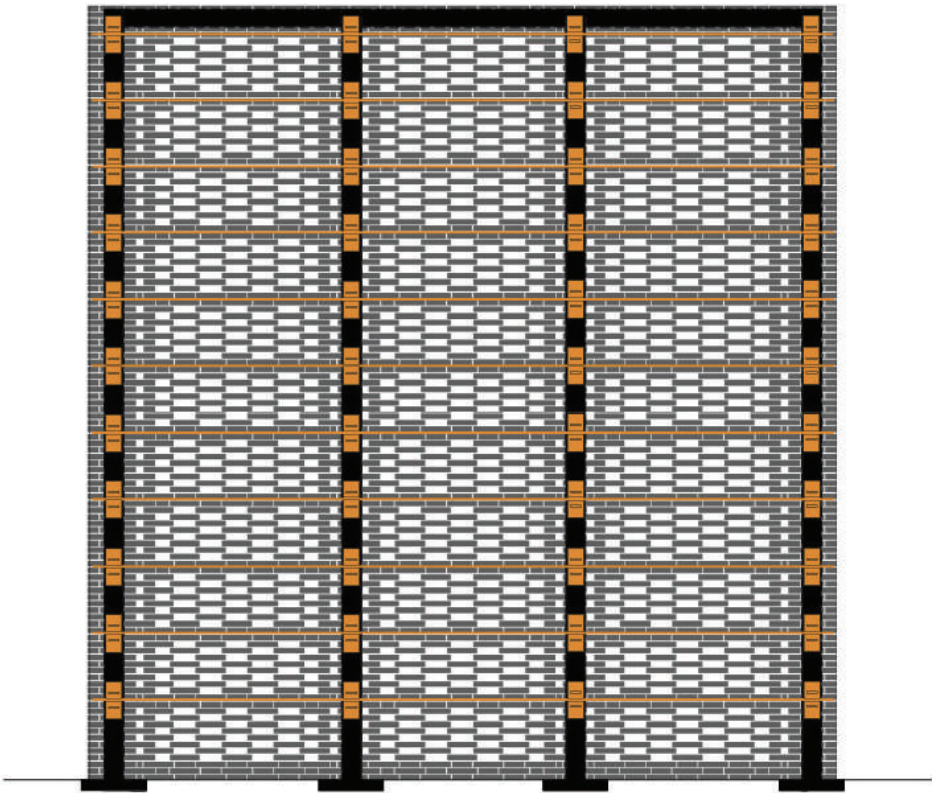
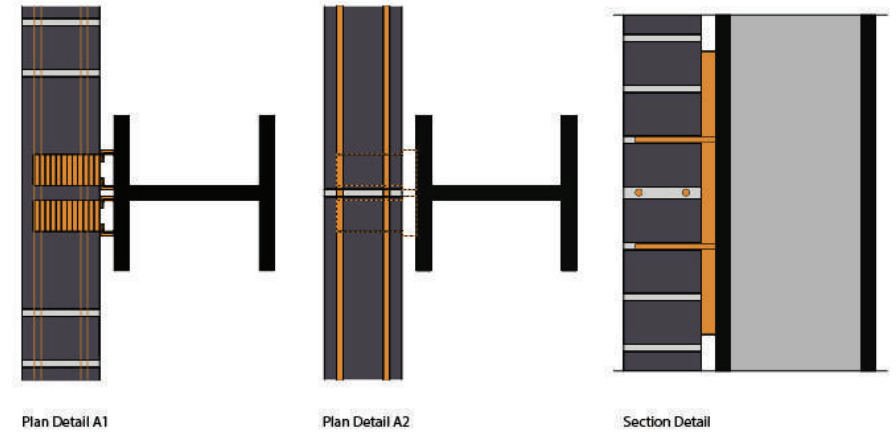
A-A Section 1:50

Scale

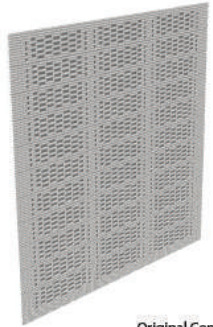
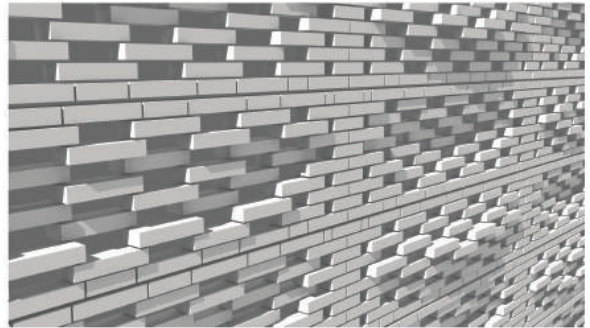
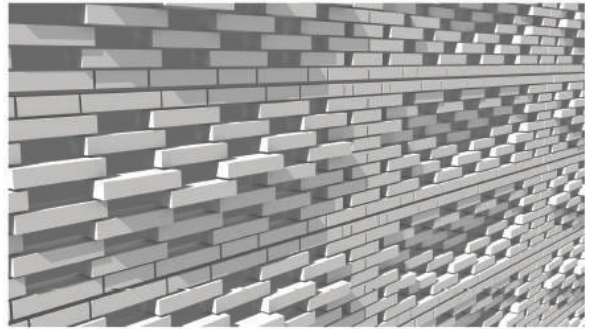
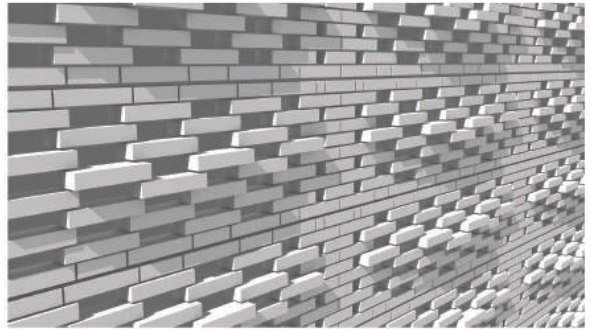
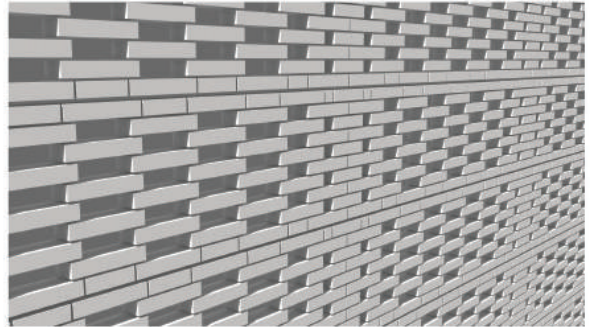
Single Bricks



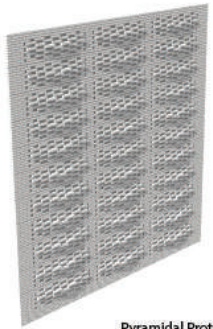
Assembly



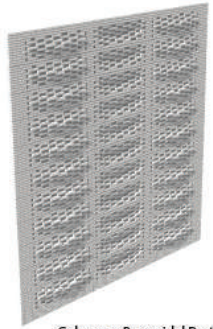
Simulation



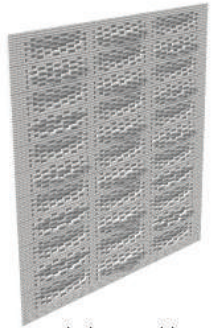
Original Condition



Pyramidal Protrusion



Columnar Pyramidal Protrusion



Checker Pyramidal Protrusion

China's New Weird 奇奇怪怪的建筑

A new urban typology for Beijing

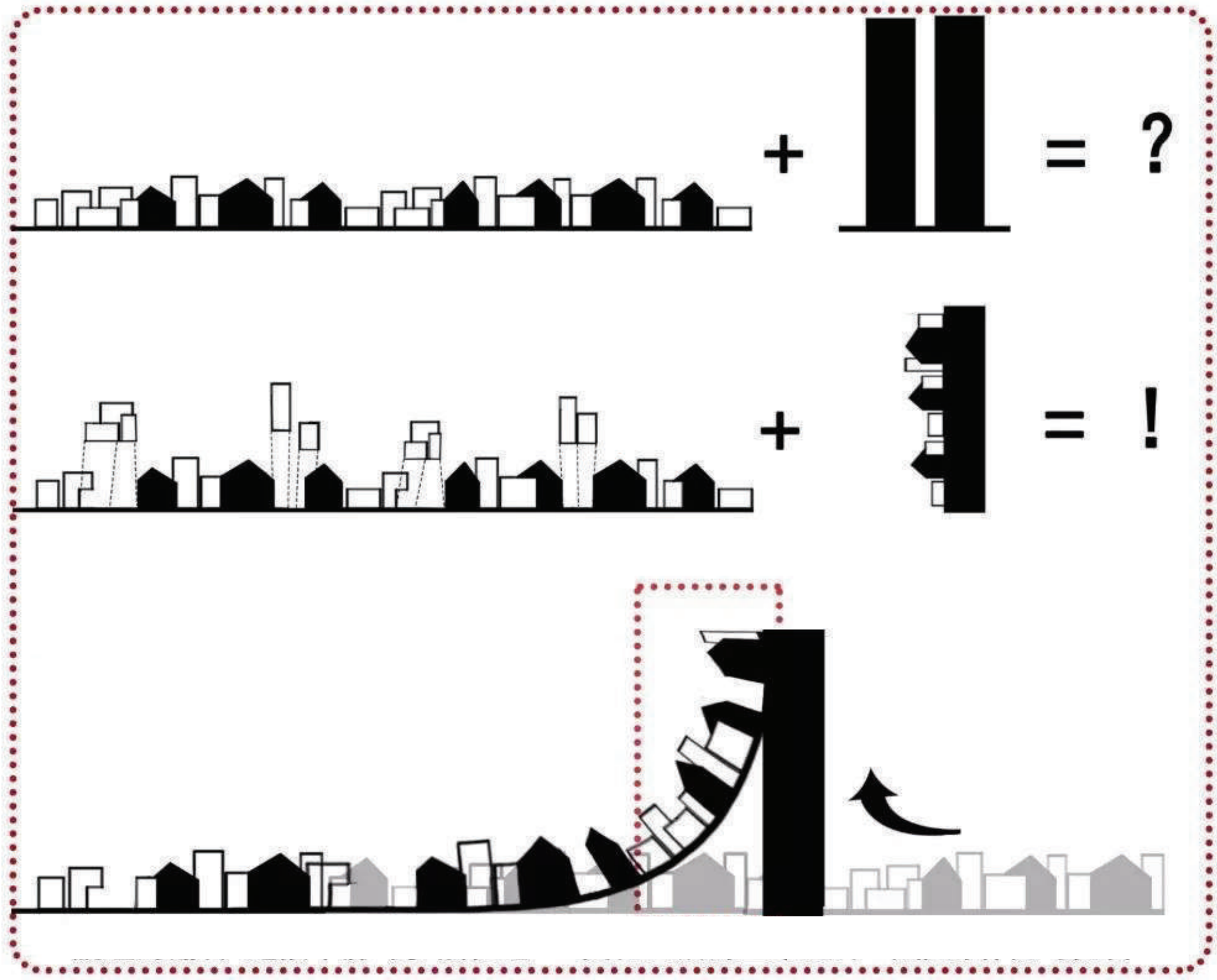
Density

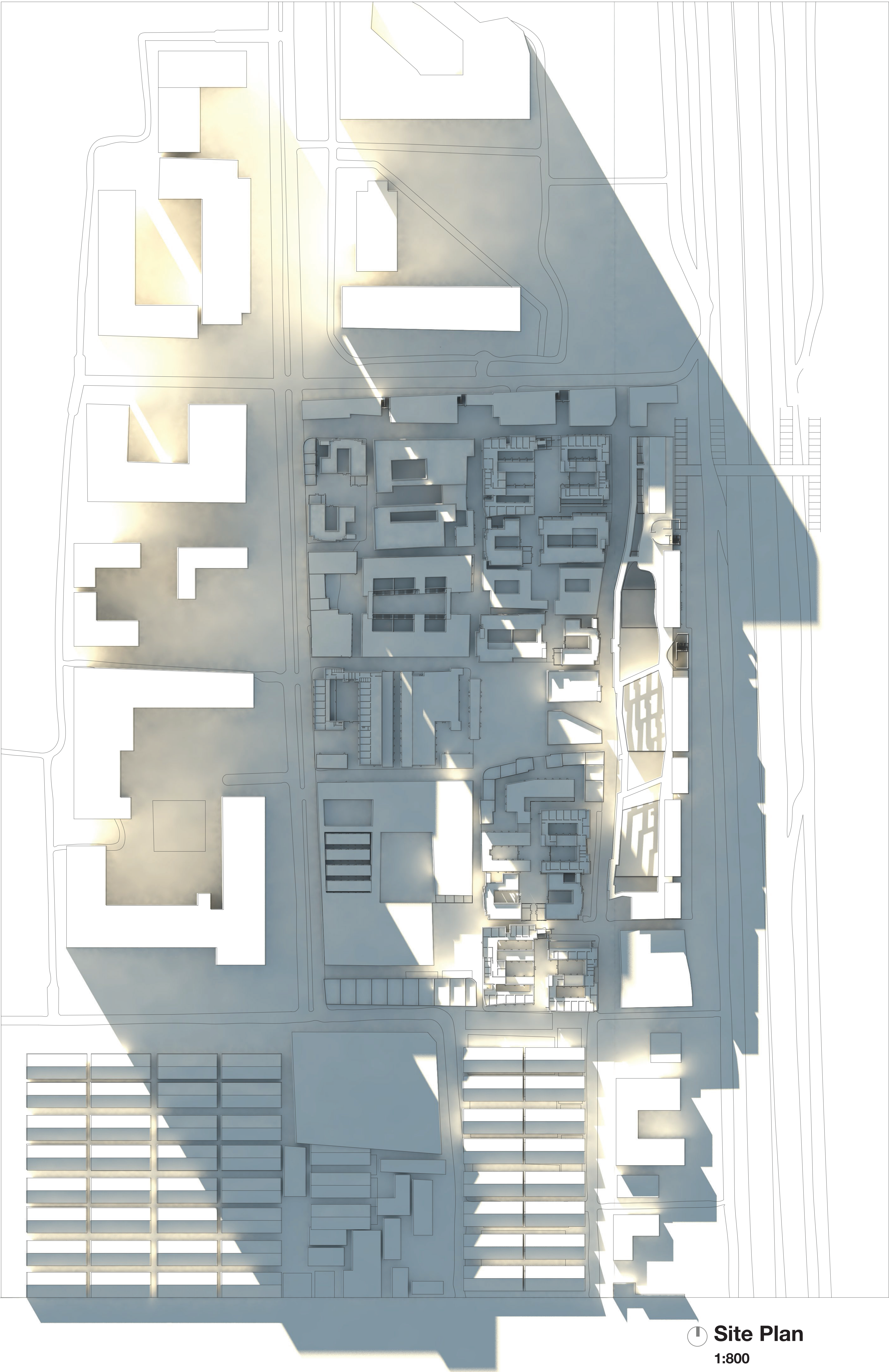


China's New Weird
奇奇怪怪的建筑

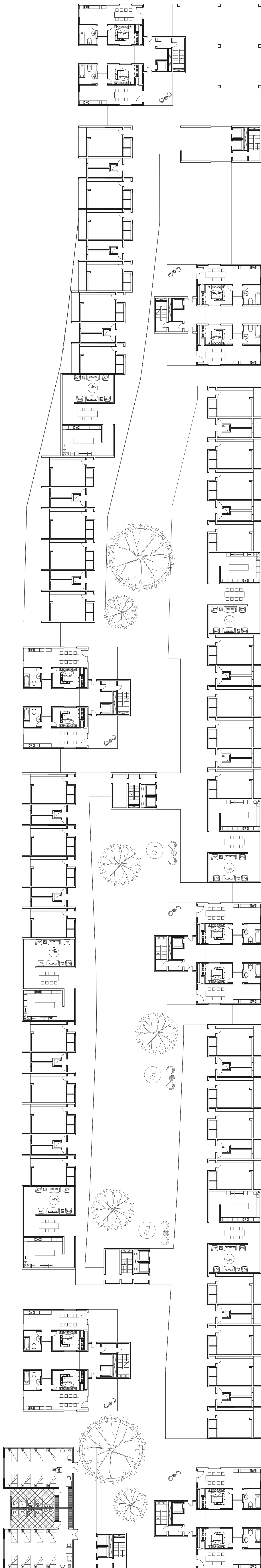
A new urban typology for Beijing

Medium Rise_Mediation





 **Site Plan**
1:800



Medium Rise
Standard Plan

1:200

